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Millions to benefit in home

Rates drop to 6.25% in battle for customers

NIC CICUTTI

Millions of house buyers are set to benefit from the cheapest home-loan deals since the 1960s as the escalating price war between lenders led Bradford & Bingley yesterday to cut mort-gage rates to a record low of 6.25 per cent.

Its move placed the two biggest lenders, Halifax and Abbey National, under intense pressure to reduce their mortgages rates even furtber.

Their resolve will be tested by other large and mid-ranking building societies in the next few weeks. Several confirmed yesterday they are preparing to give lovalty" bonuses to members.

One building society chief, who refused to be named, said: "We will force them to the point where they have to say



Geoffrey Lister: 'Lowest standard rate anywhere'

whose side they are on. Are they into making profits for their ex-isting and future shareholders, or will they defend the interest of their members?"

Both lenders, with 3.2 million borrowers between them, said that after spearheading several price cuts in the past few months they had no intention of following suit this time.

A Halifax spokeswoman said: "We have no plans to cut our rates. Having said that, we would want to remain competitive with the market-place."

Bradford & Bingley's move vesterday followed an earlier rate cut to 6.49 per cent by Di-rect Line, the telephone-based financial services company.

The society's response lowers

the cost of a typical £50,000 in-terest-only mortgage to £237 a month from March, when the reductions take effect. Direct Line's mortgage will cost £246 a month from mid-February.

Geoffrey Lister, the society's chief executive, said: "We believe the new rate for our

IN BRIEF Cost-cutting quashed

The Government's attempt to

redraw the boundaries of two

estuaries and save £100m in

sewage clean-up costs was

Adams accuses Major

The Sinn Fein president, Ger-

ry Adams, has accused the

Prime Minister of putting his

hold on political power before

A woman whose husband is the

first man in Britain to be os-

tracised by the Jewish commu-

nity, said she was helping other

'Outcast' husband

in the country." The bonus packages on offer from societies, including re-ductions in loan costs and hikes in savings rates, are part of societies' defence against de-mutualisation or takeovers.

David Charlton, assistant eneral manager at Skipton Building Society, which led the market with a reduction for its 60,000 borrowers in December, said: "We are preparing a package of measures and it is almost certain that we will be cutting mortgages even furtber. We have said for some time that we believed there must be a narrowing of the margin between

savings and mortgage rates." Bradford & Bingley led the pack last week by cutting rates for its 600,000 branch network borrowers to 7.24 per cent. Yesterday's cut is on offer to borrowers who book a mortgage through the society's telephone

Nationwide, the secondlargest society, said it too would be offering a bonus package to its 8 million members within weeks. Britannia, another top-10 society, will do so in the spring.
A spokesman at Bristol & West said: "Until recently, we had considered that defending mutuality lay in providing competitive pricing both in savings and mortgages. We are now considering the issue of loyalty bonuses and will make an announcement as soon as appropriate."

Birmingham Midshires said it was also considering a simi-lar package for its 750,000 investors and 160,000 borrowers although a spokesman was unable to say when a decision

might be reached.
But Ken Culley, chief executive at Portman Building Society, argued: "Our defence of mutuality means we try to balance the interests of both savers and borrowers. It is a matter of concern to me that the effects of mortgage rate reductions are always felt by savers. We believe that borrowers have had a good deal and want to defend our savers, who are seven times

as numerous."
The initiative by Direct Line and Bradford & Bingley adds a new dimension to the price war. Their undercutting of traditional lenders is the result of telephone-based operations doing away with costly overheads,

including branch networks. Although still relatively small, telephone lenders are grabbing an increasingly large slice of the market. Direct Line, which has chief executive, said: "We be-lieve the new rate for our phone-alone mortgage is the been offering mortgages for less than a year, has already lent about £210m.

### Winds from Siberia put Britain into deep freeze



dreds of accidents yesterday, as Siberian winds re-

26-year-old woman was killed when a car skidded no ice at Pyecombe, near Haywards Heath in West Susturned to Britain, plonging temperatures to sex. The worst affected areas were in south Wales, where

and southern Scotland all had snow, which combined with freezing winds on Thursday night tn cause

# **Kevin Maxwell faces** second fraud trial

JOHN WILLCOCK

Kevin Maxwell's legal battle to clear his name is set to drag on for another 18 months or longer after the Serious Fraud Office yesterday sensationally declared it was prosecuting him on fur-ther charges of fraud, despite his acquittal on similar charges a week ago.

Mr Maxwell accused the

Government of interference in seeking another trial, which prompted a denial from the Attorney General, who has ultinate responsibility for the SFO.

His counsel said this would mean another trial starting in February 1997, and lasting even longer than the eight month trial which ended last weck at a cost of £24m to the taxpayer.

Alun Jones QC bitterly attacked the decision as "nothing less than an outrage". It would mean Mr Maxwell had been under the strain of having to defend himself for five-and-ahalf years.

The decision sparked disbelief from observers, who had assumed the SFO would abandon any further action at yesterday's hearing. The SFO was heavily criticised over its handling of the first trial in which Kevin and Ian Maxwell and former Maxwell aide Larry Trachtenberg were all acquitted of conspiracy to defraud Maxwell pension funds.



victim of a political decision'

Following yesterday's decision, Kevin, Mr Trachtenberg and former treasurer Albert Fuller face charges of conspir-acy to defraud. The charges relate to shares in Berlitz held by the Maxwell business empire, which it is alleged were pledged to a number of different banks as collateral for loans. As a result the banks lost over

£100m, it is alleged. Former Mirror Group 5nance director Michael Stoney is also to face trial, on two charges of false accounting. All charges against Kevin's elder brother, lan, were dropped. The SFO claimed yesterday in a heated hearing that a second trial could start this October and would be shorter than

Kevin, visibly shaken by the SFO's unexpected decision. told reporters after the Old Bailey hearing of his "immense

disappointment".
"I believe that I am the victim of a political decision taken by politicians in the run up to a general election. I don't be-lieve the interests of justice will be served by a second trial. I take a lot of courage from the jury's verdict," he said.

"I came out of court protesting my innocence and will fight these new challenges with the same vigour, determination and absolute confidence that I will he proven innocent if these

charges ever come to court." The Attorney General then issued a statement: "The law officers completely refute the suggestion by Kevin Maxwell that the decision of the Serious Fraud Office to proceed with certain outstanding charges on the indictment was the result of political influence.

"The decision was taken by the director of the SFO after taking advice from leading and junior counsel in the case. "As the SFO made clear in its

announcement this morning, the law officers were also consulted. This is normal in cases of great public importance in

view of their statutory responsibility for the work of the SFO. They supported the director's

Kevin's defence counsel successfully applied for a further hearing to decide whether a second trial would be an "abuse of process" or should be allowed

to go ahead. Yesterday's controversial decision by the SFO was taken just half an hour before the hearing, according to the SFO's counsel Richard Lissack.

Mr Jones told the court that the continued prosecution was oppressive and the defence would be seeking to have it dropped on the grounds of abuse of process.

The SFO also decided not to go abead against former Maxwell accountant Robert Bunn - who was dropped from the original trial after developing heart problems - because of his continuing ill health, Mr Lissack said.

The DTI inspectors' report on the flotation of the Mirror Group in April 1991 may also be delayed by another trial. Lord Justice Phillips said be had written to the DTL who replied that they were ready to start sending out parts of the Mirror Group report for comment to people named in it. This would have to wait until after the abuse bearing, he said.

Drama in court, page 4

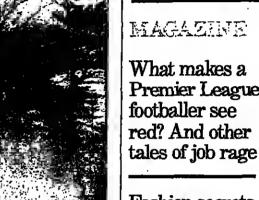
icised the move as "absurd". But Stephen Shaw, director of the Prison Reform Trust, said

the prison authorities had a duty

of care. "Where that is not

forthcoming, inmates have the

compensation as any other



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section ONE

Jewish women.

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### Prisoners are paid £5,000 for riot Affairs Select Committee, crit-

JASON BENNETTO

Crime Correspondent

Seven former inmates of Strangeways prison, in Man-chester, have been paid about £5,000 each by the Home Office for the trauma they said they suffered during the riots in

in the jail in 1990. The decision to compensate the offenders in out-of-court settlements drew an angry reaction from MPs who warned the move could open the flood gates to scores of similar claims. A victims' organisation said it

was "justice back to front".

An eighth former Strange-ways prisoner is having his claim considered, while a prison officer has been paid an undisclosed sum following the mass disturbances at the jail.

In what are believed to be the first cases of this kind, the inmates - all since released - said they underwent personality changes because of the riots. The Home Office said set-

tlements were made because of the huge cost to the taxpayers if the cases had come to trial. A Prison Service spokesman said it was a decision of the Prison Board, but that Michael

Howard, the Home Secretary, would have been informed. The former inmates said they suffered post-traumatic stress disorder from the violent scenes

in the jail Terence Jeggo, 27, of Manchester, who was given £4,500, said the Prison Service breached their duty of care. Mr Jeggo was involved in an unsuccessful attempt to rescue

two prisoners from a burning cell during the riot. He said he suffered post-traumatic stress disorder from a belief he had left them to die. Mr Jeggo, who served two years for wounding, said yesterday: "My personali-

ty changed totally. My mother said before I went into Strangeways I was a human being and when I came out I wasn't." Dawn Bromiley, of Justice

For Victims, responded: "What about the stress and pain caused to the victims and families of victims by their actions? Justice has got everything back-to-front." Richard Tilt, the Prison Ser-

vice acting director-general, said: "In seven cases we have concluded that it would be reasonable to make ex gratia payment."

Sir Ivan Lawrence, chairman of the Commons Home

member of the public."

ARTS 7,8 BOOKS 9-11 BRIDGE 27 CHESS 27 LISTINGS 26

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Page 3

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# Ulster crisis deepens as Sinn Fein rejects poll

ALAN MURDOCH, PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES and DAVID McKITTRICK

The crisis over the Northern Ireland peace process deepened yesterday as Sinn Fein's president Gerry Adams delivered a point-blank rejection of an elected body and accused John Major of putting his hold on political power before peace.

The disagreement between London and Dublin meanwhile reached boiling point as the Taoiseach, John Bruton, insisted London could not evade its commitment to starting all-party talks on Northern Ireland by the end of next month.

Speaking after a prearranged meeting with Marjorie Mowlam, Labour's Northern Ireland spokeswoman, Mr Adams claimed Mr Major had "binned" the Mitchell report and that by opting for a Unionist agenda of elections he was replacing the pre-condition of decommissioning before all-party talks with yet another pre-condition.

"We are totally opposed to the notion of any election; that is our position." Mr Adams said. "Our opposition is im-placable and absolute."

In what has become the most acrimonious rift between the two governments since he came to office at the end of 1994, Mr Bruton made clear Dublin was not prepared to accept any dilution by London of its undertakings given two months ago to to enable an early start to allparty dialogue.

Clearly angry and exasperated at what he considers a personal betrayal by Mr Major, Mr Bruton said: "The fact of the matter is we are committed to all-party talks by the end of Feb-

Mr Bruton also issued a new call to the Ulster Unionist Party to end the impasse by opening a face-to-face dialogue with Sinn Fein. He accepted some might want more claboration ing their commitment to the six peace in this country."

principles outlined in the Mitchell report.

"What I would suggest is that if a party has doubts let them talk to them. I can see no reason what after 16 months of peace why Unionists cannot send a delegation to see to Sinn Fein and ask them to demonstrate, point by point, how they intend to show to Unionists that they accept each one of these six principles," he

The opposition to the elec-uon from Sinn Fein, the Irish government and John Hume's SDLP forms, in theory at least, a united nationalist front. But although the opposition to an election is strong across the spectrum of nationalism, no element has limited its options by committing itself to any action such as a boycott, Instead a series of meetings is planned at which Mr Hume and Irish ministers will attempt to change the British government's mind.

One republican leader said yesterday that Sinn Fein had yet to decide its tactical approach. The party has however given strong indications that it would be prepared to subscribe to the six principles of non-violence set out in this week's report by the former US Senator George Mitchell.

These included an absolute commitment to peaceful means and a commitment to eventual verifiable total disarmament Senator Mitchell had suggested that talks could start on the the event his recommendation was quickly superseded by Mr Major's announcement of his election proposal.

Mr Adams said an election was a distraction and an un-necessary pre-condition for talks. He added: "Mr Major has taken the whole process off at a tangent. He has opted for a Unionist agenda and has really made it very difficult for all of those who are genuinely interested in peace to actually move forward. He is putting his from Sinn Fein in demonstrat- hold on political power before



Bishop's move: The new Bishop of London, Dr Richard Chartres, at his enthronement at St Paul's Cathedral yesterday. Dr Chartres, a traditionalist, called for the millennium to usher in a greater spirituality and for the Church to emphasise its relationship to Christ's birth. Photograph: Dillon Bryden

### MPs keen to ban sale of knives to under-16s

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES Political Correspondent

The selling of knives to young people is set to be banned in the hing of Philip Lawrence, the London headmaster.

Timothy Kirkhope, a Home Office minister, said outlawing sales to the under-16s was under "serious consideration". If a ban was found to be workable it could be included in the Offensive Weapons Bill during

its committee stage. The Bill, sponsored by Tory MP Lady Olga Maitland, has all-party support and was yesterday given an unopposed Second Reading.

Mr Kirkhope said a ban would be a major change that

tion, but said: "Young children an amnesty. "Serious crimes desimply do not need razor sharp kitchen knives or commando style daggers and it is hard to to huy them.

Although a private mem-ber's measure, the Bill's provisions are effectively the result of talks between ministers and police chiefs in the wake of the fatal stabbing of Mr Lawrence.

It provides for a new marimum penalty of a two year jail sentence or an unlimited fine for carrying a knife without good reason, while the maximum sentence for carrying an offensive weapon such as a cosh or knuckle duster would go up from two to four years.

More than 37,000 knives

would need careful considera- were surfendered this month in serve serious punishment and it is time we wiped the smirks off the faces of the hooligans who misery." Lady Olga, MP for Sut-ton and Cheam, said. The suggested outright ban on the sale of knives to youngsters would send a "powerful message of

disapproval", she said. The MP said people with good reason to carry a knife, such as carpenters or Sikhs with ceremonial daggers, would be exempt.

Alun Michael, a Labour home affairs spokesman, called for controls on advertising weapons. He said names like Rambo Short Sword encouraged undesirable behaviour.

### Tories play down 'rift' with Clarke

DONALD MACINTYRE Political Editor

Downing Street yesterday joined intensive Whitehall efts to damo down a fresh so: of speculation that Kenneth Clarke was at odds with John Major and his colleagues over Europe, the economy and how to combat the electoral threat from Labour.

MPs on the left of the party increasingly see the speculation as an attempt by right-wingers angered by Mr Clarke's role in helping to persuade Mr Major not to bow to demands to rule out British membership of single currency in the next Parliament - to destabilise the

Chancellor. While Mr Clarke's continued

openness to the possibilities of monetary union differentiates

him from many, if not most, of his colleagues; the Treasury and Downing Street united yes-terday in adamant denial that there was any rift. It was also pointed out that Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, had also been strongly against ruling out EMU mem-

bership. There were suggestions last night that the reports could be the result of "wishful thinking" among Euro-sceptics who had unsuccessfully been trying to persuade Mr Major to rule out Britain being among the first countries to join EMU. Mr. Clarke has been forthright in suggesting 1998 is the time for Britain to decide.

### Forte talks to City

IN BRIEF

about buy-back

Advisers to Sir Rocco Forte. who spectacularly lost control of his family hotel and restaurant empire to Granada in a hostile £3.8bn takeover hid lasi week, were yesterday in further talks with City institutions in an effort to raise the finance for the

buy-back of part of the group. Granada is seeking to sel some of the top hotels, including the Meridien and Exclusive chains, the Waldorf and Grosvenor House, and to dispose of Forte's 68 per cent shareholding in the Savoy Group. Three US companies, ITT Sheraton, Hilton Hotels and the Marriott Group, are said to be interested in the Savoy.

An adviser to Sir Rocco said: We've had an excellent response ... Rocco Forte is a major force in the hotels business and his robust defence has won him new friends in the City. Saturday story, pages 14 & 15

**Newbury evictions** 

Campaigners fighting the A34 Newbury bypass in Berkshire face eviction from four sites blocking the route after a High Court judge granted possession orders against them. Department of Transport lawyers would not say when the evictions from sites near the River Kennet, Elmore Woods, Reddings Copse and the Chase would start.

Widow seeks seat

The widow of Conservative MP Sir David Lightbown has put her name forward to fight his seat in the forthcoming by-election. Ann Lightbown, who worked as her husband's assistant in the Commons, said she wanted to carry on his work as MP for Staffordshire South East. Sir David, 63, died last month.

### Pub attack

A man who attacked a builder in a pub car-park row, causing massive injuries, was found guilty at Liverpool Crown Court of causing grievous bodily harm. Richard Mellor, 32, attacked Barry Hayes, 50, for telling off Mellor's seven-year-old son af-ter his car was scratched in Au-gust 1994. The case was adjourned until 2 February.

Cricket ousts 'Today'

Proposals to replace BBC Radio 4's Today morning news programme with live cricket coverage on its Long Wave frequency have angered listeners. The BBC has revealed that on 14 and 22 February much of the twoand-a-half-hour magazine will be turned over to the World Cup matches in India and Pakistan.

### Football fan's trial

An attempt by the football fan attacked by Manchester United's Eric Cantona to block his own trial was thrown out by the High Court. Matthew Simmons, 21. charged with using threatening words and behaviour, claimed that press coverage after the in-cident at Selhurst Park, south London, last January meant he would not get a fair trial.

### **Alan Clark**

Alan Clark has asked us to point out that at no time has he received any legal assistance in re-lation to the Scott inquiry, either at taxpayers' expense, or on his own account.

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### Big chill plays havoc with sport and travel

Arctic conditions caused major problems for commutels yes-terday, with the gromise of worse weather to come and the weekend's sporting calen-dar ravaged, writes Peter

The trans-Pennine route between County Durham and Cumbria was closed and snow ploughs were out on many northern trunk roads, where up to three inches of snow were re-

which was hit by a hlizzard yesterday. Snow, ice and winds affecting power lines were blamed for InterCity delays between Edinburgh and Newcastle. Weekend football, rugby and horse racing have been badly hit. Race meetings today at

Ayr, Cheltenham and Doncaster have been called off, the only survivor being the allweather meeting at Lingfield. Three FA Cup fourth round ties victim.



# concise crossword No. 2894 Sahurday 27 January

(3.5)

- **ACROSS** Following the game? (8) Exploit (4)
- Approximately (5) Fancy (7) Instigator (III) Local authority (6.7) 16 Legitimate (5.5) 20 Weightlifting equipment
- 21 Covering of billiard table 22 Heroic tale (4) 23 Sheets, pillow-c

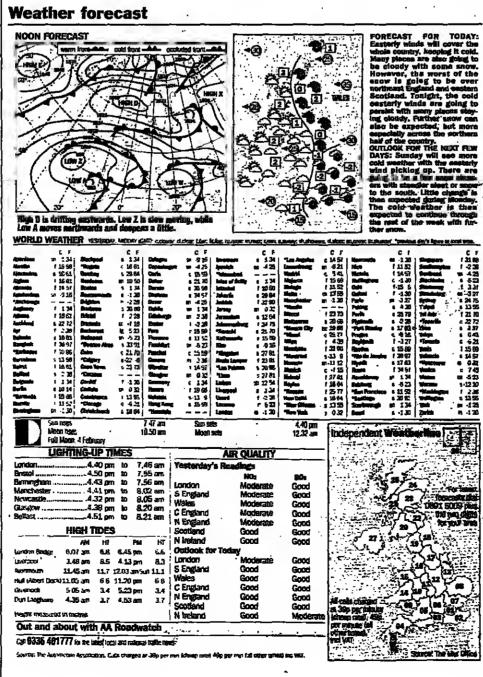
Sheets, pillow-cases, etc

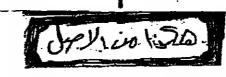
- School sports event (4.4) Balloonist [8] African village [5] Extent to which a thing causes difficulties (8.5) 6 Arrange for publication Abound (4)
- Rich cake [6) 12 Time (S) 13 Stout club (S) Form of medication (ti) Confusion of longues (5)
- 18 Bird sacred in Egyptians 19 Smug, self-righteous per-

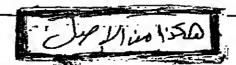
### Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

Across: I Ewe, 3 Funny (Euphony), 7 Thatcher, S Glad, 9 Clarinettist, In Pledge, 12 Bleary, 14 Short-sighted, 18 Saga, 19 Charcoal, 20 Ditto,
 Yet, Down: I Ethical, 2 Extra, 3 Forge, 4 Nightie, 5 Years, 6 Choice,
 It Dormant, 12 Beggar, 13 Radiant, 15 Hoard, 16 Secco, 17 Tacky.

Notes







# Jew 'banned' by community for blocking divorce

REBECCA FOWLER

A woman whose estranged husband yesterday became the first man in Britain to be formally ostracised by the Jewish community, said last night that she felt she was helping other Jewish women by pressing the action against him.

Moses David, 43, from Mill Hill, north London was alone yesterday, after being officially ostracised by the entire Jewish community on account of his

acrimonious divorce from his wife. Rachel, aged 30.

The official order to the community to avoid all contact with Mr David, an unemployed computer analyst, was issued last week after he repeatedly failed to attend a Jewish court hearing over his refusal 10 grant Mrs David a religious divorce. known as a get. Under the order, which has

been posted in synagogues near his home, his fellow Jews are forbidden from sitting within six feet of Mr David, entering his

home, or eating with him.
As Mr David's three children were dropped off at his sister's home, to visit him for the Sab-

that he will bw receiving. Although Mrs. David gained a civil divorce from her husband four years ago, she cannot consider herself free to enter into anuther relationship until he grants her a get. Under Jewish law the marriage contract is literally torn into two pieces, to

signify that it is over.

Mrs David, who works as a purchasing huyer for a medical equipment company, met her hushand when she was only 16. They were married 13 years ago.

To many Jewish women, Mrs David's plight is a painful and fitting tale of the trials of Judaism in modern Britain.

Jewish leaders, including Dr Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi, have been attempong to change the 2,000-year-old law in order to allow women an easier route to divorce.

In her attempt to secure a divorce, Mrs David appealed to the Federation of Synagogues, a separate body to the Sephardi synagogue that Mr David attends. But he failed to respond to three summons from Beth Din, the Jewish court.

"These declarations are is-

would be among the few guests States. But in England we're much more conservative, and Jewish women have to suffer as a result," Mrs David said.

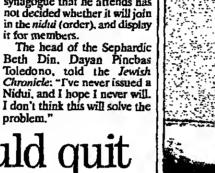
The Federation of Synagogues said yesterday that it was anxious to resolve the differences between the Davids as fairly as possible.

However, the leaders cannot make a judgement unless Mr David attends. "This law goes back hundreds of years and it inspires tremendous social pressure, even in our society, which is much freer now," said Dayan Berel Berkovits, of the Federation of Synagogues.

"We're not trying to damn this man, we're trying to use a sanction that is part of Jewish law to induce him to attend the

Mr David was not available for comment yesterday. The synagogue that he attends has not decided whether it will join in the nidui (order), and display

The head of the Sephardic Beth Din, Dayan Pinchas Toledono, told the Jewish Chronicle: "I've never issued a Nidui, and I hope I never will.



## Chief Rabbi should quit now, says Dixon's head

ANDREW BROWN Religious Affairs Correspondent

The bead of the Dixons store group, one of the most prominent Jewish husinessmen in Britain, has demanded that the Chief Rabbi resign.

In a letter to the Jewish Chronicle, Sir Stanley Kalms, who was one of the most influential backers of Dr Jonathan Sacks' for the post of Chief Rabhi when he was appointed five years ago, now says that Dr Sacks has failed to keep his electoral pledges about improving the position of women in orthodox Judaism and improving relations with the liberal and re-

of dithering. convictions, clean strategy, and a clear, communicable action plan. Popularism and survival are not on the agenda of a true leader. In fairness to himself, the Chief Rabbi should consider retiring from office. He is an academic by nature, and his talents could be immeasurably better used," he said.

Letter highlights the crisis facing a Jewish community split into factions

Sir Stanley's call roused no noticeable enthusiasm in the Jewish community. One observer from the conservative but not quite orthodox Masorti movement, which has been bitterly attacked by the Chief Rabbi, said he believed Sir Stanley bad got into "a kind of personal tiff" with Dr Sacks.

However, the controversy highlighted the considerable pressures within the Jewish community, and especially on the United Synagogue, the traditionally gentle, almost Anglican branch of orthodoxy which the Chief rabbi heads.

The United Synagogue still contains about two-thirds of Britain's 300,000 intermittently observant Jews, but intermarriage seems to many observers to threaten the sur-

pointing out that the Jewish population of Britain has declined from 450,000 in the late 1950s as a result of intermarriage. Orthodox Jews count only as Jewish children whose mothers are Jews.

Two broad strategies have arisen to deal with this crisis. The first has been restrictive: within orthodoxy there has been a great rise in the number and influence of ultra-orthodox groupings such as the Lubavitch, who hope that by increasing strictness and enthusiastic breeding to preserve Judaism as something sharply distinct from the surrounding world.

The second has been the more open approach of the Reform and Liberal traditions, which bave been happy to work with couples of mixed religions. This has led to considerable

hitterness on both sides. Last year, Rabbi David Goldberg, of the Liberal synagogue in St John's Wood, predicted that Dr Sacks would be the last Chief Rabbi to be accepted as even vival of the Jewish community. the nominal spokesman for the Dr Sacks has written a book whole of British Jewry.



the world's smallest radar transponder capable of tracking the low-level flight of insects.

The researchers have proved their device - which weighs just 3mg and measures 16mm works by supergluing it to bees as they leave the hive. And they now hope to refine the technology to help scientists fight disease spread by the tsetse fly in Africa.

The fly is a plague pest that attacks humans and cattle with often fatal results. Control in the past has been managed by spraying insecticide over vast areas of land, but the need for increasing

British scientists have invented sensitivity means that a better method has to be found. Dr Joe Riley leading the re-

search team at the Natural Resources Institute radar unit at North Site, Malvern, said: "Hopefully, the research we us develop a similar device to track the teetse fly. Scientists in Zimbabwe, who have been looking at the insects' habits for the past 20 years, need to know how they fly when they are close to the ground. Ordinary radar is no use because of reflections

from trees and shrubs. We've used bees as a flying test-bed." at the need for in-environmental pattern and behaviour of the

tsetse fly, scientists say they will then be able to place impregnated fly traps to the best effect. First, bowever, the re-

searchers will have to shrink the device by two-thirds so that it

can he fitted to the tsetse. Dr Riley explained bow the technology works. "The barmonic generating tag reflects the radar signal at a different frequency which means it can be picked up in spite of the echoes from the ground. The insects are then tracked by a special radar scanner with two dishes - one to send the signal out and one to receive it ... It's rather like the security tags you find on clothes in shops."

# Sarah is our bride now, say Turks

HUGH POPE

British officials yesterday failed to persuade 13-year-old Essex schonigirl Sarah Cook to com-ply with a High Court order to leave the Turkish family into which she has illegally "mar-ried" and to return forthwith to

Sarah left a meeting with two British consular officers after one hour, defiantly parrying reporters' questions about her plans with a shout of "Mind your own business!" as she walked off between the arms of her new "father-in-law" and his hrother.

"The child will stay. These two people love each other," said Turkish provincial governor Aslan Yildirim, smiling with triumph after the meeting between the two families and the British officials in his imposing town centre office. "Sarah is our

Sarah's mother Jackie Cook. lagged one minute behind her daughter, on her own, her face set. She then squashed into the waiting limousine of the pro-Islamic Welfare Party mayor of Kahramanmaras, who has also adopted Sarah's cause. When Mrs Cook was asked if she would leave her daughter in Turkey she said: "If I go, she

The British Consul, John Fox, and Vice-Consul, Trudie Pak, who had arrived from Ankara, were forced to retire to consider their options. These are limited, especially since the volatile feeling in Kahramanmaras is overwhelmingly in favour of a union that Turkish public opinion is treating as a was not very happy in England story of star-crossed lovers.

A senior official in Turkey's Ministry of Justice said the British High Court order had. as yet, no validity in Turkey. To prove that Sarah was a ward of a British court that wanted her taken back to Britain, he said the British Government would have to open a case in Kahramanmaras. That procedure could take weeks, if not months.

The other option would be for Mrs Cook to put Sarah in a taxi and drive to the airport. since, in Turkish law, she is still full guardian of her daughter. If Sarah was to refuse, she could then apply to the Kahra-manmaras court to have her will implemented, the official said.

The girl wants to stay, and the mother wants to go back with Sarah to sort out her legal situation. There are buge pressures on both sides," said lawyer Selim Sumen, who is acting for

Sarah's "in-laws". Meanwhile Sarah's 18-year-old "husband", Musa, is still in a grim concrete jail outside town, accused of under-age sex, a charge that most Turks feel is unjust. They note that the wilful Sarah is taller even than her father-in-law and the older generation of Turks sees young teenage hrides as normal and

The sense of injustice being done extends far up into Turkish officialdom. Governor Yildirim suggested to Turkish reporters that they start a "Free

The Kahramanmaras MP, Ali Dogan, arrived to visit Musa in prison to support the couple and to share his belief, based on Sarah's past statements to the

### Channel5 fends off Virgin bid

MARIANNE MACDONALD Media Correspondent

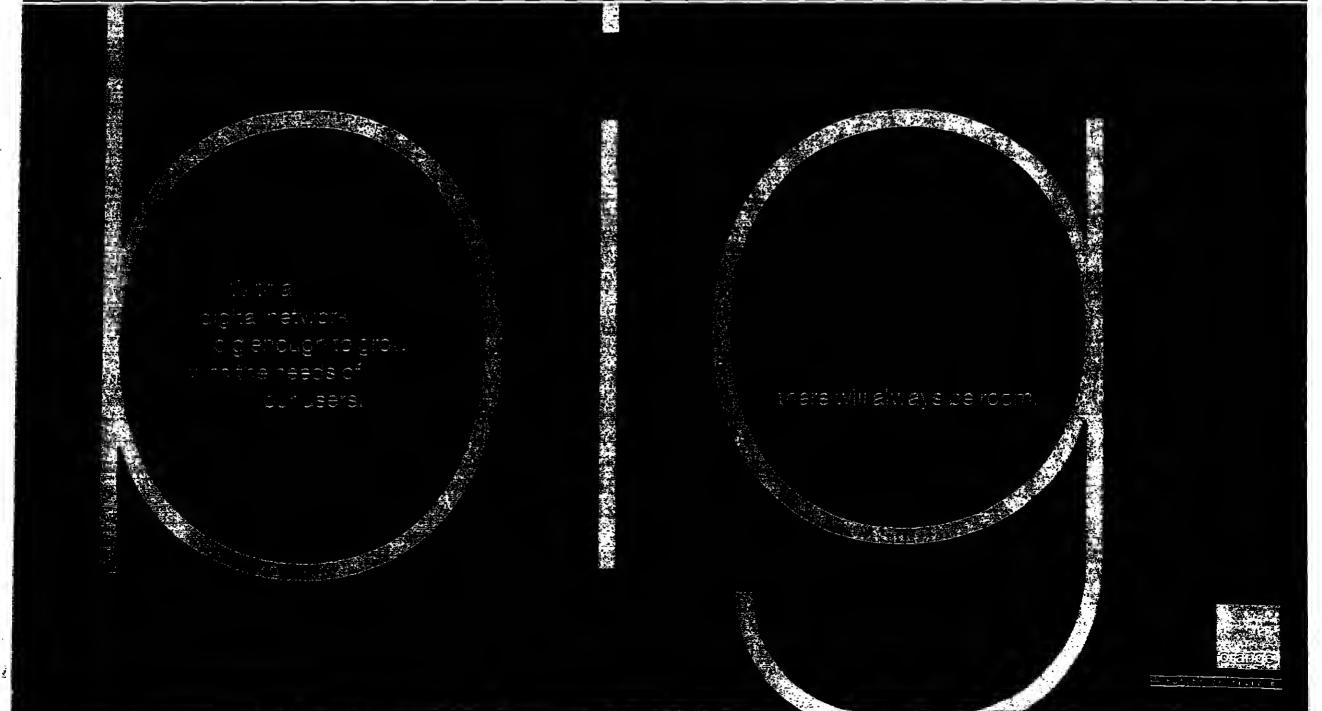
Britain's fifth television channel remains on track to start next January after the High Court dismissed claims that the operating licence should not have Broadcasting.

Virgin Television argued in a judicial review that the Independent Television Commission was guilty of procedural impropriety in its consideration of CSB's hid. Claims centred on whether the ITC had unfairly allowed C5B to increase its programme funding by £100m to £306m four months after the May deadline for bids.

Virgin also argued that the ITC irrationally failed Virgin's application on programme quality grounds — including its level of news staff, high level of repeats and lack of innovation. Many of its arguments were supported by UKTV, which bid ity, and New Century TV, the consortium led by Rupert Murdocb, which only bid £2m. Virgin and C5B both hid £22.002m.

Lord Justice Henry and Mr Justice Turner said: "We are satisfied that there was neither illegality nor unfairness in the commission recognising C5B's

shareholders' commitment."
Virgin, NCTV and UKTV
were denied leave to appeal.



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# Animal cruelty Bill wins field sports lobby's backing to sold the next election. Bill to outlaw all cruelty to soil. Bill to outlaw all cruelty to soil. Bill to outlaw all cruelty to soil. Bill wins field sports lobby's backing to sold the next election.

Political Correspondent

Cruelty to wild animals - except by hunting with dogs - is almost certain to become a criminal offence punishable by jail after a Labour backbencher's Bill was rushed unopposed through all its stages in the Commons

Bill to outlaw all cruelty to animals, including a ban on hunting.

Alan Meale, MP for Mansfield,

Alan Meale, MP for Mansfield,

Dumbarton) last year, it "does tets down rabbit holes to chase was that a broader Bill would be a broader Bill would secured the backing of field sports supporters by dropping anti-hunt clauses from his Wild Mammals (Protection) Bill.

The Bill would make it an offence to "mutilate, kick, beat, nail or otherwise impale, stab, burn, stone, crush, drown, drag or as-After the failure last year of a physiate" any wild mammal.

Dumbarton) last year, it "does not seek to outlaw the hunting and killing of wild animals with dogs or the strangulation of animals with wire snares", Mr Meale told MPs. Mr McFall's Bill was scuppered by hunt sup-

Practices such as hunting foxes with hounds, beagling, snar-

rets down rabbit holes to chase them out of other holes snared with wire traps. Lamping is hunt-

ing foxes at night with torches. Mr Meale said he had reluctantly made considerable concessions after "intense" talks with pro- and anti-field sports groups. "Many of my friends and the vast majority of the pub-

was that a broader Bill would have "little chance at this time to become law - it had to be in the interests of the animal king-

dom that I proceeded". Junior Health minister Tom Sackville gave the measure "very strong support". He said: "It is a sad reflection on our society that such a Bill should be necSir John Cope (Conservative

MP for Northavon), a member of the British Field Sports Society, welcomed the Bill. saying that Mr Meale had been "very sensible" to limit its

Mr McFall also welcomed the Bill, saying: "Only by securing

ourselves a civilised society." Kate Parminier, spokes-

woman for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, said: We're delighted. and really optimistic about the Bill's chances this time. Labour is committed to a free vote on the issue, which would

probably go against hunting if

the party won a reasonable

in Life magazine in September. Tony Blair, the Labour leader, said: "We are not about to change people's way of life.

Mr Mcale's Bill now goes to
the Lords where it is also ex-

pected to have a speedy passage and will almost certainly reach the Statute Book.

welfare in an interview in Coun-

The Maxwell affair: Lawyers exchange opening volleys as SFO presses ahead with fresh charges over collapse

# Confident smiles turn to looks of disbelief

JOHN WILLCOCK Financial Correspondent

The SFO's decision to press ahead with another five counts on the original indictment against the Maxwell defendants, despite their acquittal last week on two of the counts, hit the Old Bailey court room like

Most learned legal opinion had expected the remaining counts against Kevin and Ian Maxwell and three former Maxwell employees to be dropped. Yesterday morning's hearing at Chichseter Rents, the Old Bailey's annexe in Chancery Lane, London, was

seen as a formality. The body language of the five defendants and their attendant counsel and solicitors contrasted completely with that during the trial. Where Kevin had previously been pale and drawn, pacing the room, yesterday morning found him smiling and

There was even something of a swagger about the defendants' retinue as they regarded the five-strong SFO prosecution team sitting a few feet from them. At 10.30am, the trial Judge, Lord Justice Phillips, started the proceedings and the SFO's counsel, Richard Lissack, rose to speak.

It started innocuously. Mr Lissack explained why the SFO was dropping charges against Robert Bunn, due to ill health. Mr Bunn was originally a defendant in the first trial who had to drop out following a heart

Mr Lissack added that Ian Maxwell, Kevin's elder brother, was also clear of all charges as he had "never been involved to the same degree" as alleged of the others.

Then it came: "On counts one, two and nine, we intend to prosecute Kevin Maxwell, Larry Trachtenberg and Albert Fuller ... " The end of the sen-tence was lost as the journalists stampeded out of the court to alert their offices.

Gone were the smiles. There followed a series of heated exchanges between Mr Lissack and Kevin's counsel, Alun Jones QC. Mr Jones said that the SFO said last week it would inform the defence of its decision in advance, yet he had heard nothing until receiving "anecdotal" information, minutes before the hearing, which turned out to be wrong.

Mr Lissack countered: "I tried to speak to him and he wouldn't speak to me."

Mr Jones then complained of being "caught on the hop". He said a second trial would be



Body language: Kevin Maxwell (left) and his brother, lan, leaving the Old Bailey after the hearing yesterday

even longer than the first and would he "oppressive", "an abuse of process" and "nothing less than an outrage". Michael Hill QC, Mr Tra-

chtenberg's counsel, said that although he had been able to find out the SFO's intentions before Fuller had not been told of the sions were only reached that decision. "That discourtesy is a morning because so many peomeasure of how prosecution is being conducted," said Mr Hill. ple's views had to be taken into consideration and all aspects of Mr Lissack responded: "May the case considered "in the mi-I make it plain. I do not propose

nutest detail". to rise to language like outrage, oppressive, deplorable ... He insisted that final deci-

All those concerned had spent the past seven days considering the many factors and

how they affected each charge and each defendant, and how the public interest could best be served, he said. Keith Oliver, Kevin's solicitor, shook his head in disbelief.

Mr Lissack concluded that a new judge would not take long to read up for the second trial,

which could start in October. The existing judge, Lord Justice Phillips, one of the few in court to maintain his sang froid throughout the 70-minute hearing, agreed to Kevin having several weeks' holiday before a hearing to decide on the abuse

# Drug tests for road victims

JOHN ARLIDGE Scotland Correspondent

People killed in road accidents arc to be lested for drug abuse in a three-year Department of Transport survey designed to gauge the extent of Britain's growing "drug-driving" prob-lem. Transport officials confirmed yesterday that tests will begin later this year.

The move comes after Scorland's largest police force uncovered evidence of an increase in drug-driving. In a study, Strathclyde police found that more than one in five people who died in road accidents last year had taken illegal drugs. Senior officers are now calling on the Government to introduce legislation to enable police to conduct roadside drug tests.

Toxicologists in Glasgow ex-amined the bodies of 52 crash victims and found that 11 had consumed dangerous levels of illegal drugs. Superintendent Alistair McLuckic, who co-ordinated the Strathelyde study, which is the first of its kind by a British police force, yesterday called on ministers to change the law to enable officers to take roadside saliva or urine samples for analysis. Although it is illegal to drive under the influence Photograph: Edward Webh | of any powerful drugs, police cannot use existing legislation to force motorists to take instant tests which could lead to arrest. There are no governmentapproved "drugs breathalysers".

A Department of Transport spokesman said the three-year survey of crash victims, which has been planned for several months, would begin in April,

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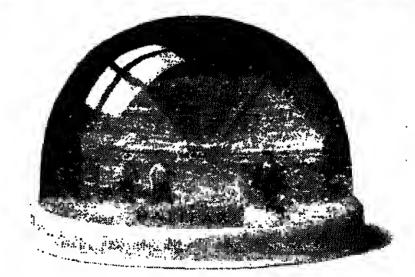
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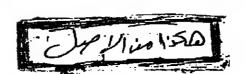
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'on the road nean?)

I thought I meant a lot more to him than that. How could be be so cheap?

Anyway, the wedding and honeymoon have now been concelled. I thought you should know.

Jours disappointealy

Michelle Brown

P.S. I'M Keeping the Polo.



Drug tests fo road victims

clean-up costs was quashed by

a High Court judge yesterday. John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment, had decided to move the line where the Humber and Severn estuaries become sea dozens of miles inland for the purposes of a European Union sewage

His move would have enabled Britain to escape its legal obligation to install an expensive level of treatment for the sewage of some one million people which is piped into these

But local councils obtained a judicial review of Mr Gummer's decision, and yesterday Mr Justice Harrison pronounced that he was quite wrong to set new boundaries purely on the basis of cost

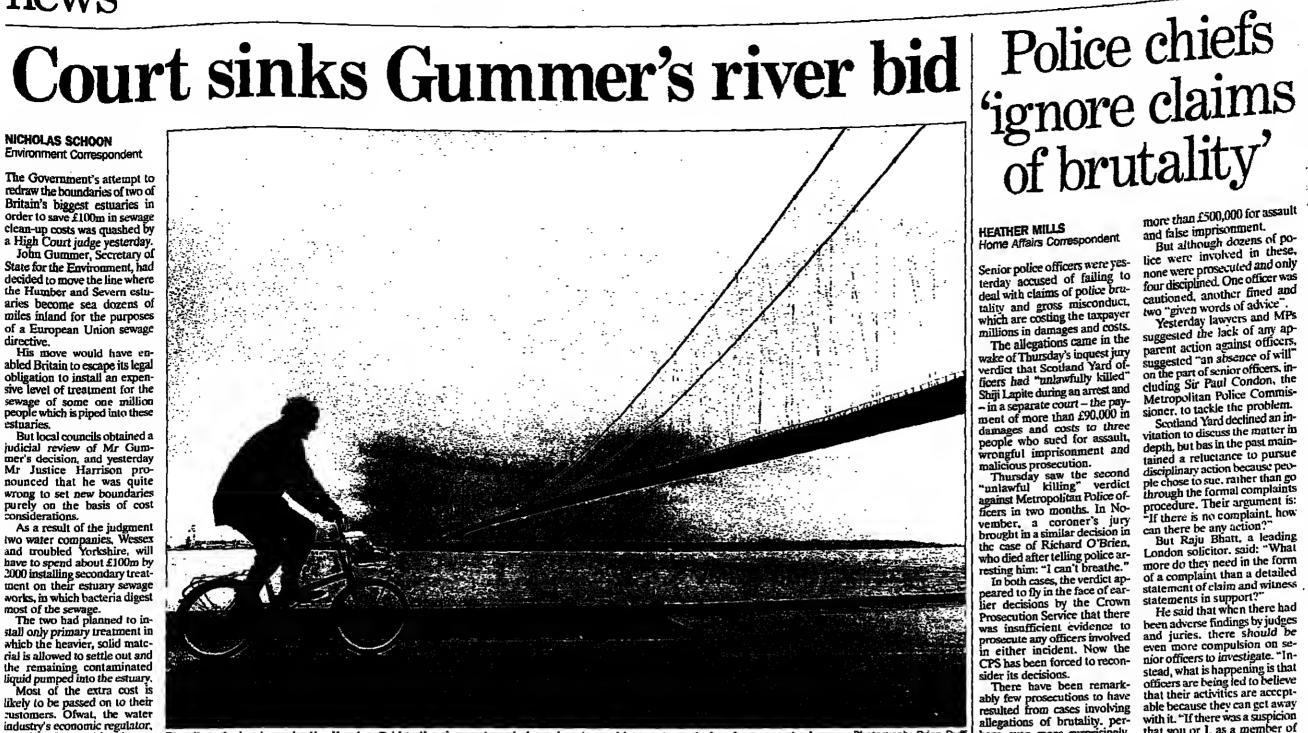
considerations.
As a result of the judgment two water companies, Wessex and troubled Yorkshire, will have to spend about £100m by 2000 installing secondary treatment on their estuary sewage works, in which bacteria digest

most of the sewage.
The two had planned to install only primary treatment in which the heavier, solid material is allowed to settle out and the remaining contaminated liquid pumped into the estuary.

Most of the extra cost is likely to be passed on to their rustomers. Ofwat, the water industry's economic regulator, said the ruling could add up to £5 a year to about three million household bills. But the city councils of Bristol and Hull were delighted by the judgnent, believing it will improve the environment and the pub-

ic image of their estuaries.
The EU's Urban Waste Waer Treatment Directive manlates every member state to arry out secondary treatment of all sewage discharges into esuaries. But for "coastal waters", only primary treatment is needd if a government can show hese are high natural dispersion treas where currents and tides apidly dilute the effluent.

The court was told that the Vational Rivers Authority, the Sovernment's water pollution vatchdog, had originally sug-jested that the estuary boundries should have been based on



Pipe line: A plan to make the Humber Bridge the river estuary's boundary to avoid sewage costs has been quashed

Nigel Plening QC, for the De-partment of the Environment,

told the court investment in sec-

ondary treatment would be "a

But the indge said: "It would

be quite wrong to redraw the

boundaries ... in order to escape the clear requirement of

the directive. The cost of pro-

viding secondary rather than pri-

mary treatment is simply not relevant." He refused the de-

partment leave to appeal but Mr

Gummer may decide to ask the

Court of Appeal for the right of appeal against the judgment.

Bristol City Council, said:

People are very concerned

about the environment in the

We're absolutely delighted.

Jackie Hawken, a solicitor for

complete waste of £100m".

natural landmarks, salinity and

a defunct 1960 Act.
But the Government, worried

about the directive's implica-

tions for water bills, asked the

authority to think again. The

NRA then agreed to bringing

the seaward boundaries inland

to the Severn and Humber sus-

pension bridges. As a result sev-

eral big estuarine sewage works

were left in coastal waters. The

final cost saving step was to

define these waters as high nat-

The NRA has advised the

Government, on request, that it

does not believe secondary

treatment would bring signifi-

cant gains in water cleanliness.

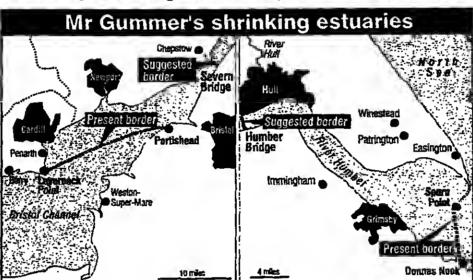
and the extra money might be

better spent on other sewage

ural dispersion areas.

clean-up programmes.

Photograph: Brian Duff



HEATHER MILLS Home Affairs Correspondent

Senior police officers were yesterday accused of failing to deal with claims of police brutality and gross misconduct, which are costing the taxpayer millions in damages and costs.

The allegations came in the wake of Thursday's inquest jury verdict that Scotland Yard officers had "unlawfully killed" Shiji Lapite during an arrest and - in a separate court - the payment of more than £90,000 in damages and costs to three people who sued for assault, wrongful imprisonment and malicious prosecution.

Thursday saw the second "unlawful killing" verdict against Metropolitan Police officers in two months. In November, a coroner's jury brought in a similar decision in the case of Richard O'Brien, who died after telling police arresting him: "I can't breathe."

In both cases, the verdict ap-seared to fly in the face of earlier decisions by the Crown Prosecution Service that there was insufficient evidence to prosecute any officers involved in either incident. Now the CPS has been forced to reconsider its decisions.

There have been remarkably few prosecutions to have resulted from cases involving allegations of brutality, perhaps even more surprisingly, there have been equally few disciplinary actions.

In the case of Oliver Pryce, 30 year-old man who, like Mr Lapite, died as the result of a police neck bold, there was both an "unlawful killing verdict" and, in a civil action for damages, an admission by Cleveland police of liability. But no officers were ever

charged or disciplined. In London alone in 1994, police paid out nearly £1.4m in damages and even more in lawyers' bills, winning outright only 24 out of 304 cases. In 1993, they paid ont nearly £1.1m, plus costs, winning outright only 16 of 243 cases. Over those two years - the latest for which figures are available. £1.5m was paid out to settle 48 serious claims - including one for be undermined."

and false imprisonment. But although dozens of po-

lice were involved in these, none were prosecuted and only four disciplined. One officer was cautioned, another fined and two "given words of advice". Yesterday lawyers and MPs

suggested the lack of any ap-parent action against officers, suggested an absence of will on the part of senior officers, including Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, to tackle the problem.

Scotland Yard declined an invitation to discuss the matter in depth, but bas in the past maintained a reluctance to pursue disciplinary action because people chose to suc, rather than go through the formal complaints procedure. Their argument is: If there is no complaint, how can there be any action?"

But Raju Bhatt, a leading London solicitor, said: "What more do they need in the form of a complaint than a detailed statement of claim and witness statements in support?

He said that when there had been adverse findings by judges and juries, there should be even more compulsion on senior officers to investigate. "Instead, what is happening is that officers are being led to believe that their activities are acceptable because they can gct away with it. "If there was a suspicion that you or I, as a member of the public, had been involved in a serious attack, we would be arrested, held in custody, probably charged, and brought to court within the year."

twoy

But Sir Paul is on the record as saying that solicitors and complainants saw the police as a "soft option" to sue and that he was determined to settle less and fight more actions in court.

Yesterday, Chris Mullin, the Labour MP and veteran justice campaigner said: "The Metropolitan police are paying millions each year in damages and lawyers' fees, yet the Commissioner is flatly refusing to take any action against officers whose misbehaviour is responsible for this cost to the taxpayer. The longer this goes on, the more that public confidence will

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### Man admits thefts of rare book plates

A landscape gardener cut hundreds of pictures from libraries' Southwark Crown Court in books involved had been estimated at £189,000-£289,000. He dreds of pictures from libraries' rare antique books worth up to £289,000, a court was told yes-

Joseph Beliwood, who has been banned from going into any library until his case has been dealt with, sold or swapped Mr Hicks told Judge Mota them making up to £37,000, Singh that the value of the

tin Hicks, for the prosecution. Bellwood, 43, of Swillington, West Yorkshire, has admitted 12 sample charges of theft and damaging property between January 1994 and June 1995.

mostly from the British Library, the London Library, Leeds Cen-tral Library and Birmingham

Central Library, of which 439 had been recovered or traced. Justin Shale, for the defence,

said 1,149 plates, illustrations

and prints had been stolen,

said the value of the books in-volved and the amount his client was said to bave made were disputed. He said the volumes were worth £100,000 and Mr Beilwood's benefit £16,000. He asked for an eight-week adjournment so these matters could be dealt with. The judge

### **Ecstasy** smuggler jailed for six years

A drug smuggler who brought ecstasy and "speed" valued at £5.6m into Britain was jailed for

six years yesterday.
John Moore, 23, of St Helens, Merseyside, was said by his lawyer to be "somewhat im-mature" and had been been sucked into the crime by others. Judge Keith Simpson told him at Maidstone Crown Court: "I have no doubt whatsoever vou were a very minor cog and insignificant figure in the hier-archy of drug trafficking. I can't imagine that anyone in their right mind would entrust you

with £5.5m worth of drugs. The court was told that Moore smuggled 400,000 ecstasy tablets worth £5m, and 3.64kg of 90 per cent pure amphetamine sulphate, with coach firm boss Trevor Haskayne. Haskayne, 56. of Meols, Wirral, was convicted in December of drug smuggling and jailed for 18 years.

David Fisher, for the prosecution, said Haskayne, boss of Montravel in West Kirby, Wirral, used a weekend shopping trip to the Netherlands by coach as a cover.

Moore, who admitted the charge, and his wife, 20, flew from Manchester to Amsterdam on 3 December 1994. They stayed with Haskayne's party at the Lancaster Hotel. Passengers saw Moore walk to

the coach carrying three large holdalls. During the journey to Calais, another passenger saw Haskayne give Moore £80.

Haskayne put a sign on the coach saying "Dunkirk Shopper, Coach 2", even though there was only one, to enable them to pass through Customs quickly. But the bus was searched and a sniffer dog found the drugs.

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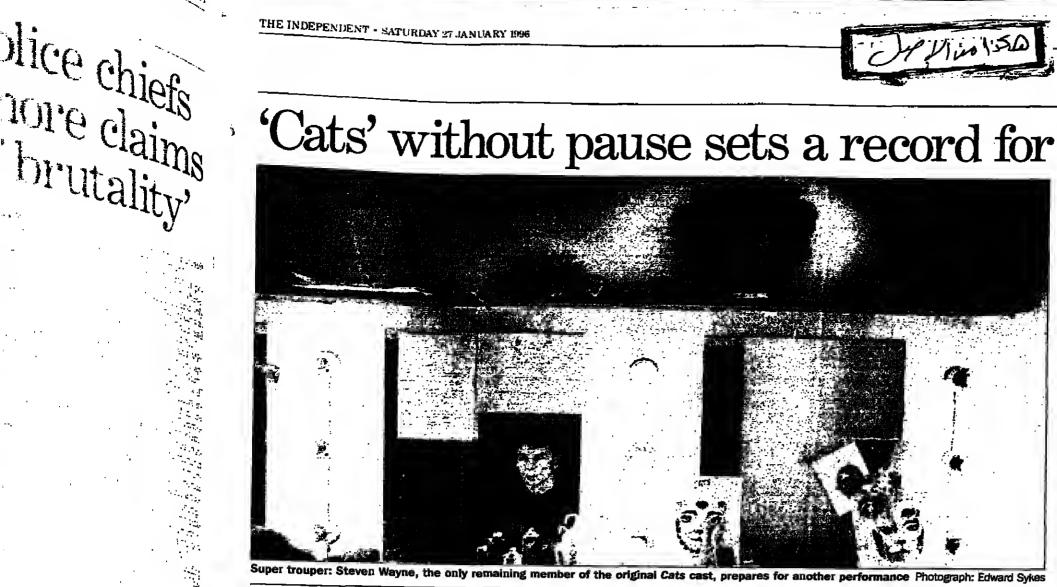


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# 'Cats' without pause sets a record for long-playing musicals



Andrew Lloyd Webber's award-winning musical Cats, which holds the accolade of London's longest-running musical, is set to enter the record books again on Monday when it becomes the longest-running musical of all

The show, which has grossed more than £1bn world-wide in ticket sales and merchandis will beat the previous record of 6,137 performances held by the Broadway production of A Chorus Line.

Cats opened at the New London Theatre in Covent Garden on 11 May 1981 and has played to full houses since, earning

£85m in London alone. The musical, based on TS Eliot's Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats, received mixed reviews when it opened but, with its revolving stage, was praised for pioneering new theatrical production values. Sue Uings, who was box office manager when Cats first opened and is now head of marketing for the theatrical impresario Sir Cameron Mackintosh, sees the technology as a key factor in the Mousetrap, which is Britain's musical's success. "It was the longest-running stage show.



Super cats: Feline friends from the

forerunner of all the hi-tech mu-

sicals," she said. Steven Wayne, the only member from the 1981 original cast still in the show, has oot tired of hearing the Cats theme "Memory", "because everyone sings it differently. The only time it annoys me is when 1 am on holiday and I hear it piped

in a hotel or on a plane". However, the musical still has some way to go before it breaks the 44-year record of The

Cats has been seen by 7 million peopla in London alone.

There are nine current productions playing around the world.

In 1989, it became London's ongest-running musical. Dame Judi Dench was due to play Grizabella but had to pull out just

Greaters the show because of an in-before the show because of an in-jured ankle. She was replaced by Baine Palge, who sang the world-wide hit "Mernory." In There have been more than 100 recorded versions of "Memory". Sheet music sales of the song in the UK total 95,500.

# Building firms hit by 'cowboys'

**GLENDA COOPER** 

"Cowboy" builders are flourishing while reputable firms go under because home owners and the Government allow them to, according to a new report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

The fear of poor quality work also deters many people from doing necessary work, imperilling the house's safety. A study for National Housing Week in 1994 estimated that £69bo occded to be speot to bring the UK housing stock up to the standard.

The report, Quality Repairs: Improving the efficiency of the housing repair and maintenance industry, studied 80 small builders in Bristol and oorth Somerset and found that only half those working eveo in reputable firms had a formal con-struction industry qualification

The report noted that a "gen-erally minimalist" attitude to husiness administration was common, and new technology was rare, even for such simple

tasks as word processing.
But while many reputable builders struggle on, home owners compound the problem because of their willingness to employ contractors who cut corners and avoid VAT by ac-

cepting cash payments, One contractor complained: "There's less work and materials have gone up but customers want cheaper prices. At times it's hardly worth working. Five years ago, I had 16 people working for me. Now I only have two and I have just a few

weeks work ahead." Cowboy builders were described as traders who put in very cheap quotes based on the cost of poor-quality materials and ioexperienced workers. Work was usually of poor quality and might not comply with building standards or regulations. They were less likely to use safety procedures and imlikely to possess public liability insurance.

Another contractor reported: "Ofteo I hear that the client has found someone who will do the work at half my estimate. To do or formal business training and few employed trainees. that they must be working on the quiet. They're not qualified the quiet. They're not qualified and they're probably claiming unemployment benefit."

But taking the cheap option can often work out more expensive, "Customers are misled. The trouble is they are not experienced enough to know what they are getting and they may not realise how bad the joh is until it is too late. I often get called to sort out bodged jobs."

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# Labour to adopt 'stakeholder' pension reform

NICHOLAS TIMMINS Public Policy Editor

Labour is poised to back funded second pensions as a replacement for the State Earnings Related Pensiums Scheme (Serps). The move would provide growing numbers of workers, including the lower paid, who rely heavily on Serps, with their own stake in investment funds for their

The change reflects an increasing consensus, both in the pensions industry and, to a degree, politically, that second-tier pensions in future should be funded from savings, not from pay-as-you-go national insur-

ance contributions. But it will mark a sharp shift in Labour poticy, which for twenty years has hacked the retention and reconstruction of Serps, introduced by Barbara Castle in 1975 with cross-party

Chris Smith, Labour's social security spokesman, said yes-

had been taken. But in an interview with the Independent, he said: There must he serious questiun marks about the longterm sustainability of pay-asyou-go models for second tier pensions," - where today's taxation or contributions pays for loday's pensions and the monev is not invested.

Since 1988, the Government has cut the final value of Serpshy three-quarters, in part because of fears that with rising numbers of elderly up to the year 2030, future taxpayers would not pay the additional £50bn a year the full Serps pensions would have cost.

Any pay-as-you-go scheme is open to the predatory attacks of governments less sympa-thetic to the needs of a future generation." Mr Smith said. Funded second pensions with defined contributions producing a decent rate of return fooked "ultimately a better ap-

Decisiuns would still he

eration of members, to run a funded second tier for them alongside as an alternative, or to "try to transfer everyone into a new scheme with the absolute guarantee that they will be no worse off than if Serps continued".

Indicating that he would favour the latter if the transfer costs were acceptable, Mr Smith said the alternative to Serps need not be a single, National Pensions Scheme, privately run at arms-length from Government, as advocated by this week's Retirement Income Inquiry. A better solution could be a range of competing funds where: "the Government sets the parameters and the private sector is involved in the development of the product."

In Australia, from where Mr Smith had just returned, intense competition within the private sector to run Governmentdefined industry-wide pension schemes bad produced "remarkably low" running costs of one to two per cent, be said -



Eye of the storm: Richard Branson and his co-pilots at a press shoot in Morocco yesterday as rain blighted their plans Branson hogs hot air of publicity

> CHARLES ARTHUR Science Correspondent

Many of the sponsors of Richard Branson's project to fly a helium-filled balloon nonstop around the world bave found themselves edged out of the media spotlight - to their

While Mr Branson has courted attention from newspapers, radio and television on behalf of the three Virgin companies co-sponsoring the project which has an estimated cost of £2.5m - the other 91 sponsors involved with it have struggled to win any attention at all.

Bad weather has delayed the balloon's take-off by more than a week from its planned start, and it will prohably not take off from Marrakesh, in southern Morocco, until next week.

A number of sponsors are privately faming at the manner in which Virgin has taken the

lion's share of the publicity. while spending comparatively

Almost all the equipment for the project - including the high-technology balloon material and propane fuel to power the engines needed to keep the three-man crew alive while aloft - has been donated by outside

companies. Many people have worked for free to assemble and test the halloon, though their hotel costs are being covered by Virgin. The team, numbering almost 50 people, has now been at the site near Marrakesh for almost two weeks while the weather - particularly the pattern of winds - has made a take-

off impossible. The balloon material consists of 16.000sq ft of high-strength, aluminium-coated plastic worth at least £15,000, provided by HiFi Industrial Film, based in Stevenage. The company, with

annual revenues of just £7.5m, had hoped to benefit from publicity. Instead, it has found its name almost submerged, while the balloon now bears Virgin's name in large letters. "We have had to fight for everything," said

Andrew Mallard, who represented the firm in Morocco. The 4.5 tons of specially processed liquid propane fuel that will power the engines was provided free by Mohil. Just over a fortnight ago, Mobil received an urgent request to deliver the fuel to Marrakesh three days ahead of schedule. But on arriving two weeks ago, the drivers, paid by Mobil, were

be lifting off for at least five But David Partridge, a Virgin director who is the project's manager, says this was because Mr Branson was very keen not to be beaten in the attempt to make the first non-stop cir-

told that the halloon would not

cumnavigation. That was threatened earlier this year by the launch uf a balloon piloted by an American, Steve Follett. "Our original plan for when

we wanted the propane and belium went out the window when Steve Follett took off, Richard wanted everything done right away. We didn't want any holdup caused by the balloon being ready but the helium or propane not being there.

Richard, in his zest to be first and not beaten, applied pressure on me and everybody in the team to make it work.

However, the delays caused by the weather have meant that the extra effort has gone to waste, and left observers wondering what the rush was about.

If the unfavourable weather continues into February, the attempt may have to be abandoned until November, when air conditions at 30,000ft will once again be suitable to try a flight.



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SARAH HELM Brussels PAUL WALLACE

Predictions that European Monetary Union may have to be delayed were reinforced yeslerday by new figures suggesting that even Germany may fail to meet the conditions for the 1999 launch datc.

On Thursday British ministers suggested that the collapse of monetary union plans was imminent and that France and Germany may be forced to change course within weeks.

The remarks were fiercely rejected yesterday by the European Commission and treated with suspicion in many European capitals, where the comments were widely seen as an attempt to undermine the cntire venture.

However, serious doubts about the feasibility of merging major European currencies on the terms set out in the Maastricht treaty remained widespread. Speaking at a con-ference in Germany yesterday, Philippe Seguin, the Gaullist head of the French National Assembly, described the present EMU timetable as "risky and questionable"

Germany's latest economic predictions added to the gloom. Bonn announced that it expects its public spending deficit for 1996 to be about 3.5 per cent of economic output exceeding the Maastricht rules for joining EMU by 0.5 of a point Countries wishing to join monetary union in 1999 must have achieved the 3 per cenl deficit limit by the end of 1997. Earlier this month, Theo Waigel, the German finance minister, predicted that Germany's budget deficit would be brought down in time to the 3 per cent level. His predictions now seem highly optimistic.

A report by the economics ministry said that the German economy would grow by only 1.5 per cent this year. Unemployment would rise by 250,000 to average. 10 per cent of the average 10 per cent of the workforce - up from 9.4 per cent in 1995.

But officials in Bonn made it clear last night that the government is determined to stand firm on the EMU timetable, in the belief that any weakening would remove budgetary discipline from Germany and other EU countries and make the economic situation worse.

The European Commission continued to reject predictions of imminent collapse. Officials accused British ministers of capitalising on the wave of nervousness in Europe for domes-tic political purposes; the Government negotiated an opt-out from the single currency at the Maastricht summit in 1991. and Tory Eurosceptics have demanded a commitment to keep sterling independent but the Prime Minister has refused to make a decision until next year.

"Nothing that has happened this week suggests any real sapping of political will in France or Germany," said one senior official. Commission economists argue that the economic news is not yet so desperate that the EMU timetable, or rigid hudgetary discipline, must be abandoned. This would only happen if a recession looked inevitable "and there are no signs of that," they insist. Other economists are not so confident.

Speaking in Paris, Yves Thihault de Silguy, the EU Eco-nomic Commissioner, repeated earlier Commission predictions that between eight and 10 countries should be able to meet the Maastricht criteria for monetary union by the end of 1997. He said that a delay in the launch would mean a renegotiation of the Maastricht treaty.



Turban power: Sikh troops in the parade in New Delhi yesterday to mark the anniversary of India becoming a republic in 1950. India's newest missiles and tanks were also displayed

Photograph: Ajit Kuman/AP

# Polish leader wants secret files opened

ADRIAN BRIDGE Central Europe Correspondent

Poland's President, Aleksander Kwasniewski, is to push for the country's Communist-era secret police files to be opened. I ne move follows the resigna-tion this week of the Prime Minister, Jozef Oleksy, over claims

that he was a KGB spy. Mr Kwasniewski, a former Communist, wants the files to be made accessible to an independent commission that would then be able to rule whether candidates for senior govern-ment posts had been informers.

The aim of the legislation, which would be modelled on that passed for east Germany, would be to draw a line under the Communist past and es-tablish ground rules on the extent to which politicians can be judged today for what they did in the past. "I would like to help Poles ... settle accounts from the more distant and the recent past," said Mr Kwasniewski, who, like most ex-Communists, previously opposed any open-ing of the secret-police files. His change of heart was undoubtedly prompted by the fate of Mr Oleksy, his party colleague, who spent the past month try-ing to defend himself against allegations that he was a Moscow spy for more than a decade.

Even as be announced his resgnation on Wednesday, Mr Oleksy insisted he was innocent but acknowledged he had been friendly for many years with a Russian diplomat who worked for the KGB. That the Prime Minister was forced to quit before having been found formally guilty underlined the continuing potency of the past, and the extent to which nearly all senior east European politicians still live under its shadow.

The only former Warsaw Pact country that fully opened its files is the old East Germany, where anyone who worked for the secret police has been barred from public office and where everybody has been entitled to see their own files. Although the decision to open the files was controversial, it has been considered a success, ensuring that allegations are based on fact Photograph: Ajit KumaryAP | rather than rumour and allowing ordinary east Germans to find out at last who it was who was spying on them for all those years.

Mr Kwasniewski is involved m (alks with party leaders aimed at agreeing a successor to Mr Oleksy. In the legislation he intends to present to parliament. he will propose a commission to oversee the files, now in the charge of the interior ministry. The commission is to have access to all pre-1989 files and, in special cases, more recent ones.

The President's former Communist party colleagues in the governing Democratic Left Alliance are likely to support the move. As part of their attempt to show themselves to be genuinely reformed social



democrats, they want to be seen to be open and honest about their backgrounds.

Ironically, resistance to the new law is likely to come from the centre and right opposition parties, which feel the initiative is a smokescreen to deflect attention from the Oleksy affair.

Some analysts say the openmg of the files could reveal more collaborators from the ranks of the old Solidarity movement than among the former Communists themselves.

But then, as the east Germans discovered, much of the information in the files was fabricated by agents over-anxious to please their bosses. And the files of many of the old Communists who really worked as informers mysteriously disappeared just before the final collapse of

### IN BRIEF

### Students jailed after secret trial

Cairo - Twenty-four Libyan students were tortured and convicted in a secret trial on charges of taking part in anti-government riots, Amnesty In-ternational said. They are believed to he serving terms of up to nine years, and are not being allowed access to their families or lawyers.

### No apology

Oslo - Israel agreed to pay compensation to the wife and daughter of Ahmed Bouchikhi, an innocent Moroccan waiter killed during a hungled 1973 Mossad assassination in Norway, hut stopped short of apologising, according to lawyers for the family. AP

### Internet Nazis

Bonn - Deutsche Telekom, Germany's higgest Internet provider, cut off access to neo-Nazi material posted on the global network by Ernst Zuen-del, a German right-wing ex-tremist living in Canada, a day after prosecutors said they were considering incitement charges against the telephone company and another firm.

### 'Anti-white' Mandela

Johannesburg — South Africa's neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement accused President Nelson Mandela of being "antiwhite" for agreeing to meet the black American Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan, who arrives for a visit today.

### All wrong

Houston, Texas - A pregnant runaway girl who touched off an international search because she was thought to be ten has turned out to be 14. She was also not as far along in her pregnancy as had been reported, or going by her correct name. Reuter

### Picture rail Bordeaux - Teachers in Bor-

deaux, where the French Prime Minister. Alain Juppé, is mayor, protested that his portrait been hung in several schools and nurseries. Reuter

### Kiss of freedom

Dedham, Massachusetts Christopher Glover, 20, escaped from jail after his girlfriend, Shannon Rideout, managed to pass him a key to his handcuffs during a passionate kiss. He was recaptured, and both face charges.

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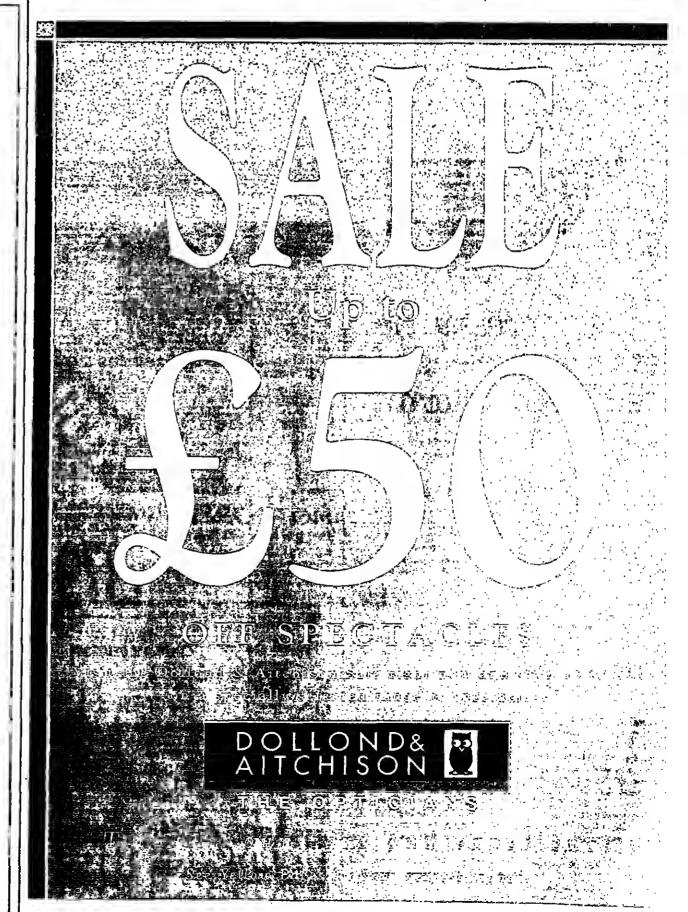
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# 'Remember me, but let me go – that's it'

Death Row: Utah execution goes 'like clockwork'

Prison log of Taylor's last night

Inmate Taylor received his antacid.

pizza, coffee. Taylor declines.

prayers and the "After Life". Taylor's mood appears positive.

hymns at this time.

is no need for them."

20.01 Deputy Warden offers Inmate Taylor more soda,

Taylor asked if he could have his antacid liquid. Warden Galetka stated he would take care of this.

Chaplin Rodriguez and John Taylor are discussing

Inmate Taylor still talking to his Attorneys. Seems

laughter. Taylor seems relaxed and almost happy.

to be in good spirits and adamant to proceed.

Constant conversation, sprinkled with frequent

Inmate Taylor is visiting Attorneys Rogers and

Brass and Father Rodriguez. They are singing

Father Rodriguez reading scriptures. Taylor is

Warden Galetka asks Taylor if he wants to wear

his glasses for the execution. Taylor says, "There

crying, sitting very still with head bowed.

23.50 Taylor taken out of death watch area. Area secured.

DAVID USBORNE Draper, Utah

It had been denounced worldwide as inhumane and barbaric. And so, maybe, it was. But the execution by firing squad of John Albert Taylor, convicted child killer, was swift and supris-ingly clinical. It was not a messy just 20ft away, Taylor probably child killer, was swift and suprisdeath - as with Gary Gilmore

as both the victim and executioners had wanted.

When their triggers were pulled at 12.04am, the five .30 hunting rifles delivered one clean report - an abrupt "boom", said one of the witnesses. Strapped into the spenever heard the explosion. The 19 years ago - but precision-per-fect. It passed, in fact, exactly would have travelled faster than

the speed of sound. Within three minutes, he was pronounced dead.

It was whal remained afterwards that best described an execution that had been so painstakingly orchestrated. In the plywood that had been behind the convict, the bullets had made just a single hole, about a third of an inch deep and so narrow that a dime would have covered it.

Thus, Utah, which in 2002 will be host to the Winter Olympics, was a state experi-encing relief yesterday. For many among its majority Mor-mon population who still believe in the teachings of their church's earliest leaders, the required "blood atonement" had been duly achieved. But while blood had been spilled – a slowly spreading patch of damp-ness on Taylor's dark prison jumpsuit where a small white target had been placed, indicating his heart - there had been no ghastly gushing and no gore. "It was like clockwork," the prison warden, Hank Galetka, declared. "It went as rehearsed."

When Gilmore was shot for the killing of a motel clerk, he was strapped to a simple office chair. Whisky had been smug-gled in to the chamber, and money changed hands as reporters hought the accounts of witnesses. And there was no metal pan under the chair to catch his blood. But Taylor's



Killer: John Albert Taylor shackled in his cell

Beverly DeVoy, a freelance

passing was like Gilmore's in one respect. He never once wavered from his determination to go through with it. Even at journalist who was one of Tay-lor's three invited witnesses, said the last moment, he could have asked to resume his appeals process. But he did not. And it health problems - an enlarged was he who, one month earliheart, bleeding ulcers and

er, had opted for death by fir- swollen legs and feet - bound ing squad rather than by lethal him to his death wish. He did not want to die alone in his cell.

> Taylor's mood in his final hours in a "death watch" cell adjacent to the execution chamber was depicted in pithy

progress reports typed out hourly from mid-afternoon and distributed to the media. For example: 22.00 - Inmate Taylor seems to be in good spirits. Visiting with his attorneys. 22.10 - Constant conversation.

their hints of anguish. 22.48 -Taylor is crying, silting very still with his head bowed. Even in his death chair, when

given the opportunity to make a last statement, Taylor was sanguine. "I would just like to say to my family, my friends, as the poem was written: 'Remember me, but let me go. " In a whisper, he added: "That's il". The warden then retreated to the back of the chamber, counted out loud to three and ordered, "Fire!"

Taylor never confessed to the murder for which he was axecuted. In an interview last Monday with two high-school reporters, he said again that he had not murdered Charla King. 11. The girl was discovered dead on her bed by her mother, Sherron King, on 23 June 1989 — naked, a telephone cord around her neck and her underwear stuffed in her mouth. Of Mrs King, Taylor said: There's really not much I can say to her. I'm sorry for her loss ... I didn't do it."
Is Taylor's destined to be the

last execution by the bullet in America? Perhaps. But recent attempts to introduce legislation to end the practice have stirred little support amongst state politicians. Nor was there much sign of sympathy for Taylor among the citizenry as he perished on Thursday night. How many were there in the congregation at a nighttime vigil in St Ann's Episcopal church in central Salt Lake City, for example? Only five. sprinkled with frequent laugh-

### Hillary Clinton takes oath over Whitewater

JOHN CARLIN Washington

Hillary Clinton was testifying under oath yesterday before a grand jury seeking to establish whether she is deceitful or just plain disorganised. If the 23 members of the grand jury, who conduct their work in total secrecy, find sufficient evidence that the wife of the President of the United States lied, she could be indicted for

conspiracy to obstruct justice. In the absence, however, of any clarity as to what exactly it records indicate that over 15 is Mrs Clinton might be months she did 60 hours of work covering up, it appears more likely that the impact of the hearing will be more political than criminal, providing ammunition in this election year to those who question President Bill Clinton's judgement and

integrity. Mrs Clinton's undignified ordeal yesterday, one never before endured by a First Lady, revolves around a pile of legal documents sought for two years by investigators into the complex Whitewater investment affair. The papers eventually turned up in the private quarters of the White House.

The 116 pages contain the law practice, of co records of work done by Mrs not have done it."

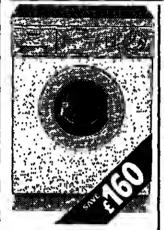
Clinton 10 years ago as a partner in the Rose law firm in Arkansus on behalf of Madison Guaranty, a savings bank that went bankrupt and which was owned by the Clintons' partner in the ill-fated Whitewater property venture.
Before a White House aide

stumbled upon the documents. which were simply lying on a table in the First Family's book room, three weeks ago, Mrs Clinton had maintained that her work for Madison Guaranty had been "minimal". The for Madison. Debate continues over whether that was "mini mal" involvement or not.

Mrs Clinton said in a newspaper interview published vesterday that it would be "a relief" to answer prosecutors' questions. "This is not a first that I'm particularly pleased about," she said, "hut I think that it's a necessary part of the investigation, and t intend to co-operate."

Speaking of what she called her "limited" work for Madison Guaranty, she said that had she foreseen Ill years ago that people would my to distort it to undermine my reputation and my law practice, of course I would

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# Yeltsin reshuffle ends with pledge to stand by reforms

PHIL REEVES

Boris Yeltsin yesterday declared that his government reshuffle was more or less complete, after a turbulent lew weeks in which he has lurched towards the hardline camp and given his supporters at home and abroad a nasty dose of the jitters. The President also reiterat-

ed his commitment to reforms - a move clearly intended to soothe international concern about the purge of top liberals from his administration and his attempt to use force to crush Chechen rebels in Dageston. And he was jubilant about Russia's acceptance on Thursday into the Council of Europe.

However, with anly five months to go before a presidential election, he seems to be shifting his definition of reform in the hope of winning over the millions of impoverished Russians who, denied the fruits of the emerging free market, have turned to the Communists and ultra-nationalists.

The Boris Yeltsin of 1996 no longer talks of anti-inflationary policies, but waxes lyrical about spending on social issues. Take the last few days: he has agreed to pay more than \$4.5bn (£2.9bn) to Chechnya; ordered an increase in pensions and stu-

would be set up to cover government workers' salaries if their wages were delayed. Yesterday - despite reports that Russia's new strategy could

jeopardise a \$9hn loan from the International Monetary Fund there was more of the same: "The most important task is ... protection of the social and economic rights of the people." Mr Yeltsin told a meeting of regional officials.

Meanwhile, the President defended his government purge by saying that it was "dictated by conditions". As part of this process, he has thrown overboard his chief economics strategist, Anatoly Chubais, his chief of staff, Sergei Filatov, and the Foreign Minister, Andrei Kozyrev. These changes have coincided with rumblings from Russia about a shift of focus away from the West and towards the East, principally India, China and Iran

But there were signs yesterday that the recent friction with Washington, which was partieularly alarmed by the sackings, was beginning to ease. After initially turning down an invitation to Moscow from Russia's new Foreign Minister, Yevgeny Primakov, the US Secretary of State. Warren Christopher, has agreed to a private meeting with him in Helsinki on 10 and 11 dent grants, and declared that February, followed by an offia "President's social fund" cial visit to Moscow in March.



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Frankfurt massacre: Defence blames Russian mafia hitmen for killings at brothel for the rich

# Trial spotlights vice gang wars

**IMRE KARACS** 

High-fliers from the world of finance and prominent characters from Frankfurt's low life were brought together vesterday for the trial of Germany's most hrutal killings in recent history.

In the dock at Frankfurt's central court slood an ethnic German couple from easiern Europe, accused of strangling the owner of the most exclusive brothel in town along with his wife and four prostitutes. The six victims were forced to lie face down and then garrotted with electric wire on 16 August 1904.

Among the 70 witnesses to appear are the clients; business folk who had no trouble charging the fees of 350 marks (£160) an hour to their company expense accounts. And watching attentively from the fringes are the shadowy Russian and Ukrainian malias hattling for a piece of the action in Ger-

many's lucrative sex market. It is a trial where some of the victims appear more sinister than the perpetrators. The brothel, a stuccoed villa a short laxi ride from Frankfurt's business district, was owned by Gabor and Ingrid Bartos. Hungarians with a taste for the

places. Though Bartos only employed four prostitutes, he made enough money to own a private jet, which he used to ferry Russian women to Germany. He changed his emptoyees frequently. The four east European prostitutes murdered that night had been in the country

only for a few days.

Though German detectives uncovered nothing when they retraced Bartos's steps to Budapest, suspicion tingers that he imported more than his fair share of women, provoking the wrath of hig crime syndicates from the anarchic lands of the former Soviet Union. That is certainly the assertion of the main accused, Eugen Berwald, a 25-year-old immigrant from Moldova, who claims his only role in the crime was to tel a Russian hit squad into the hrothel on the night of the

massacre. This yarn was stretched to the limit of credibility when the defence yesterday called a witness caught up in a government sting against plutonium smuggling. The implication is that Bartos earned his fortune in this business, but fell out in the end with his Russian partners. The police have a different

good life and friends in high places. Though Bartos only emganised crime, the prosecutors say Berwald did all the killings, helped by his wife, Sofia, who worked at the brothel. According to this scenario, the motive for the crime was greed, and the robbery went horribly wrong when the owner, Bartos, was accidentally killed in the struggle as Berwald tried to tie him up. In a fit of panic, Berwald is then alleged to have murdered every-body else slaying in the villa.

The trial is set to run for three months, but it is unlikely that the whole truth will

The case has already highlighted, however, the growing strength of east European crime gangs. Out of some 200,000 licensed

prostitutes, more than a quarter come, courtesy of the various syndicates, from eastern Europe. Some 15,000 to 20,000 of these are tured to Germany with promises of respectable jobs, only to find themselves in brothels against their will.

In the vicious struggle for hegemony in this racket, the estahlished German, Czech and Hungarian operators are heing blown away by their new competitors from farther east.



Accused: Eugen Berwald in court charged with killing a brothel owner, his wife and

four prostitutes. Berwald's wife, Sofia, faces robbery charges

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## Café rumours raise bomber from the dead

PATRICK COCKBURN and STEPHANIE NOLEN

Is Yahya Ayyash, the Palestin-ian bomb-maker thought to have been killed three weeks ago by a booby-trapped mobile phone, alive and well and living in Gaza, Egypt or Sudan? Many Palestinians believe he is. In the coffee shops of the West Bank they talk as much about how he may have survived assassination as they do about the results of the Palestinian general election.

He knew they were coming, said Sami Rashe, an accountant, sitting in a café in Ramallah, just north of Jerusalem. "He got a look-alike to stay in the bouse where he was hiding — and he got away." The body buried in the Martyrs' Cemetery in Gaza was not his, he added.

The story seemed to gather a little substance last week when the Jordanian newspaper Al-Bilad quoted an unidentified official of Hamas, the Islamic organisation to which Ayyash belonged, as saying the bombmaker had known that an Israeli attack was imminent. A Hamas colleague, eager for martyr-dom, took the fatal phone call. This enabled Ayyash to evade his Israeli pursuers again and escape out of the back door.

It is not surprising that Palestinians want to believe that Ayyash is still alive. The expertise required to send a suicide bomber to blow up a civilian bus is not very great, hut Palestinians liked the idea that here was a Palestinian the Israelis feared. They have the atomic bomh and we have Ayyash," said one.

Some Hamas leaders want to quash the rumours. At a memorial rally for Ayyash in Gaza their spokesman, Mahmoud Zahhar, made a special reference to the stories of the bomber being alive: "Despite what you hear, I saw him myself and he was dead."

But Mr Rashe in Ramallah said: "Sure, they saw some-body who was dead. But if the bomh blew his head apart, how can they know it was Yahya?"
There is another, more sub-

stantial, reason why Palestinians

think there was something peculiar about the assassination. For a man who must have known he was No 1 target for Israel's Shin Bet security agency, he took very few precautions and had heen staying in the same house in Beit Lahiya refugee camp for months. If the legend of Ayyash's ahility to avoid detection was true, he must have known the Israelis would find him. Could he, therefore, have used the assassination plot to es-cape Israeli retribution by pre-

tending it had succeeded? A more likely explanation is that Ayyash's reputation as "the Engineer," first promoted by the Israeli media and then picked up by the Palestinians, was inflated, but in West Bank coffee shops this theory will find few

### Peking unveils HK 'shadow government'

TERESA POOLE Peking

With all the pomp and ceremony of a state occasion, President Jiang Zemin yesterday presided over a ceremony in the Great Hall of the People to estahlish officially the Pekingappointed Preparatory Committee, which will deter-

mine how Hong Kong will be governed after 30 June 1997. Nationalism was the theme of billed by Peking as marking the start of the "final stage" of the transfer of Hong Kong's sovereignty to China, now 17

months away. "The most important thing is to unite all patriots in Hong Kong," Mr Jiang said. "Under the flag of toving the motherland and loving Hong Kong, the Preparatory Committee can unite all forces that can be united." that can be united." The 150 committee members will in theory make some of the key decisions affecting Hong Kong's future, though it remains to be seen how much its Hong Kong members can influence the panel's Peking bosses. Ninety-four members come

from Hong Kong, the rest from the mainland. Missing from the hody, when it was announced last year, were any members of the Democratic Party, the most popular political party in Hong Kong. The Preparatory Committee is to appoint a 400-strong Selection Committee, which will choose a "chief executive", the most important post in Hong

Kong when it becomes a so-

called Special Administrative

Region of China next year.

Given Peking's unilateral de-cision to disband Hong Kong's existing Legislative Council. the committee also will decide how to set up an interim appointed legislature to take over the moment sovereignty reverts to the mainland. It will also plan China's side of the handover ceremony and other celebrations.

The committee will have its headquarters in Peking, hut



Jiang: Beating nationalist drum over Hong Kong

there will be a secretariat in Hong Kong to liaise with the Hong Kong government. Still unclear is the extent to which the existence of the Preparatory Committee will undermine the authority of the Hong Kong government, and divide loyalties of the colony's civil servants if it becomes a de facto "shadow" government. For Mr Jiang, the successful return of Hong Kong is a key element in boosting his image as the "core" of the new leadership, as China awaits the death of Deng Xiaoping, the ailing patriarch.

### Okinawa rocked by new rape case

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

The US forces have confirmed that another serviceman on the island of Okinawa has been charged with raping a girl, three days before the reopening of a gang-rape trial that has undermined the Japanese-US military

relationship.
Senior Airman Anthony
Williams, 24, has been charged under US military law with rape and indecent acts involving an under-age girl and with supplying alcohol to minors. The attack took place after a party last month at Kadena air base. The victim is American, the 14-year-old daughter of an-other airman at the base.

On Monday a court in Naha. Okinawa's capital, will hear closing arguments in the trial of three servicemen charged with raping a 12-year-old Japanese in September. The case caused uproar and prompted calls for the US presence on the island to be cut. In November the Defense Secretary, William Perry.

troop cuts. It is the third reported rape since September but the first in which charges have been brought. Women's groups in Japan say many cases never get to court, because of shame on the part of the Japanese victim or cover-ups by the military. The Stars and Stripes military newspaper gave the outlines of last month's attack. The moth-

agenda when President Bill Clinton meets Ryutaro Hashi-moto, the Prime Minister, in

April. A joint group is to discuss "consolidation" and possible relocation of some facilities

but both sides say overall troop

levels are not up for negotiation.

underlines the danger that, just

as the US is mending fences

over the September rape, another case will reinforce calls for

Yesterday's announcement

er of the girl was quoted as saying officers, including her hushand's commanding offieer, had discouraged the family from publicising the case. "He said this could blow up bigger than the O J Simpson case and visited Tokyo to try to calm the that they'd never be able to get waters. The issue will head the an impartial jury."







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Lying in state: Mourners file past the body of Moshoeshoe II in Maseru, the capital of Lesotho

# Lesotho buries its stormy king

ROBERT BLOCK Thaba Bosiu, Lesotho

As the sure-footed steeds of Basotho tribesman escorted their dead king on his final journey through the mist of Lesotho's mountain passes, the ancestors of the Basotho people smiled upon their descendants. The skies opened and the rain came

down in buckets.

A S Mohale, a palace official and relative of King Moshoeshoe II, watched with satisfaction. The rain was a good sign.
"It's a blessing for a great man
who has died," he said. He was joined in his contentment by thousands of subjects who gathered yesterday morning in the shadow of Thaba Bosiu, "the mountain of the night", to pay their last respects to the king, one of Africa's few remaining royal heads of state.

The procession of tribesmen

and military brass hands stretched for miles aloog the road from the king's favourite farm in Matsieng to Thaba Bosiu, birthplace of the Basotho nation and burial place of its kings. Behind the king's coffin.

Photograph: Gary Bernard/AP

and borne on a gun carriage, came the limousines of diplomats and dignitaries.

Among those who came here 21 miles from the capital. Maseru - were Presidents Nelson Mandela of South Africa.



Moshoeshoe: A turbulent monarch, twice exiled

Robert Mogabe of Zimbabwe, Frederick Chiluha of Zambia and Ketumile Masire of Botswana - the leaders of southern Africa's big powers.

The king's death in a road accident on 15 January caught everyone by surprise and was considered a loss for the whole regioo. He was 57 and had been back on the throne for less than a year after his second spell in exile. There was speculation that rivalry between politicians and the military could be rekindied and that trouble would return to the kingdom.

Thus the ram on the morning of the funeral was greeted with such relief. Traditionalists said it was a sign the king was leaving a legacy of peace and tranquillity. It was not a gift that he had given his people ofteo. The 30-year history of Lesotho has been one of democracy subverted by successive dicta-torships, with Moshoeshoe invariably at the ceotre of every political storm. He was an absolutist whose reluctance to accept his post-independence role as a constitutional monarch hrought him into conflict with Lesotho's rulers and led to his being deposed twice and exiled.

The first time was for a few months in 1970 after a clash with the country's first Prime Minister, Leabua Jonathan. The king refused to be a rubber

wrapped in the royal standard stamp. In 1990 he was exiled by Justin Lekhanya, which had toppled Jonathan. The king was replaced by his eldest son, Letsie David Mohato.

Moshoeshoe was allowed home in 1992 but not to reclaim his

Sir Jo

Letsie, embarrassed at being king while his father was still alive, staged a palace coup and dissolved the country's first democratically elected government. Presideots Mandela. Mugabe and Masire stepped in to resolve the issue and also to return Moshoeshoc to the

throne, which he again ascended on 25 January 1995. According to the eulogies yesterday, the king was working to resolve tension between the political parties and the military, still said to harbour political amhitions. He was also praised for his struggle against apartheid in South África, which surrounds

his kingdom.
The Commonwealth Secretary. Chief Emeka Anyaoku, called the king a Basotho patriot who kept Lesotho "on the side of justice, human rights and decency" during the struggle.
"King Moshoeshoe died all 100
young, at the end of his youth
and in the full maturity of his potential," Chief Anyaoku said. "He died still a promise, wheo the best was yet to come."

The king was born Constantine Bereng Seeiso on 2 May 1938, grandson of Moshoeshoe 1, the founder of the Basotho nation, who willingly made his country a British protectorate in 1868 as a defence against the Afrikaner settlers of the Orange Free State. Basotholand was ruled by Britain until independence in 1966, wheo the 27year-old graduate of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, was oamed King Moshoeshoe II.

Mr Mohale said the king's schooling in Britain gave him

the air of an intellectual and an Eoglish country gentlemen, as well as that of a monarch. But if he eojoyed the sport of kings. his love of horses had more to do with his Sotho blood than Ascot. He also enjoyed keeping cattle, sheep and goats. It was his love of his livestock that led to his death: he was returning from visiting his ranches when his car crashed.

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# Sir John Badenoch

John Badenoch was among the best of generalists, with a superb opinion across the whole field of medicine.

The son of a family doctor, he carried the ideals of gener-at practice into his consultant work. Never neglecting clinical skills and the science of medicine, he brought to his patients a blend of family doctor wisdom and comfort, combined when necessary with the gravitas of an eminent consultant physician. He was by speciality a gas-troenterologist, but his practice was much wider than that.

These qualities, apparently effortless, were underpinned by long hours of work with his patients and their families as well as at his desk. Equally at home with sick car workers from Cowley as with important personages in Oxford (and they with him], he had a natural talent for discovering covert consequences of an illness and in dealing with them. It was astonishing to his colleagues that he could combine all this with so much advisory and committee work at which he also excelled - locally in Oxford, for government departments, for the Royal College of Physicians and other medical schools. He was in demand as an examiner in medical trials and a key figure in the planning of new



clinical schools in Cambridge and as far afield as Sultan Qabooe University in Oman.

All this combined with college and university responsibilities would have exhausted a lesser man. If such a load of labour and age did not wither him, he did sometimes look as

though it had. Badenoch came up to Oriel College, Oxford, in 1938 and attended the wartime Clinical mary. There he was awarded a prestigious Rockefeller Student's Fellowship which took him to Cornell Medical School in New York in 1941. His return took some three months, his ship repeatedly setting out and returning, with one episode of rescue from the icy Atlantic. He reappeared in Oxford with a hint of an American cadence in his speech to become Professor Leslie Witts's house physician in the Nuffield Department of Medicine in 1943 and to mar-

ry Anne Forster a year later. Military service then separated them and took him as medical officer of the West African Rifles to Nigeria and the Gold Coast (Ghana) before his return to Sevenoaks in command of the military hospital there. After he was demobilised in 1948, his father's death led to a short period in the family practice at Leyton in London until he returned in 1949 to Witts's department as a Re-

There he joined Dr Sheila Callender in studying the problems of malahsorption from the gut. He made particular use of radio-isotopes in this work, which formed the basis of his Goulstonian lecture to the Roy-ai College of Physicians in 1960.

He could have continued a fine career in academic medieine but was drawn instead to clinical work. His opinion became widely sought and this led to a move from the academic unit to an NHS consultantship in the United Oxford Hospitals in 1966. Before that he had made his mark as a teacher in the young clinical school as its Director of Studies between

In the late 1960s and 1970s the demands on his time as a clinician were supplemented by an almost overwhelming load of committee work, on the Board of Governors of the United Oxford Hospitals, later the Area Health Authority, and most importantly on the planning committee of the New John Radeliffe Hospital. His clinical practice re-

1954 and 1965.

mained a huge commitment in which his devoted palients were never allowed to be aware of the pressures under which he worked. Despite long hours, he always found time for family, for interests in photography and ornithology and for a pre-work ward round of the contents of his greenhouse usually

beginning at 6am or earlier. There were important contributions to the university too at this time. He became a Fellow of Merton College in 1965, its Subwarden in 1976-78 and Emeritus Fellow in 1987. He was Pro-Proctor of the university in 1967-68, when his son James took his BA in law.

After his retirement in 1985 the pace hardly slackened. Badenoch served on the General Medical Council in the 1980s, as an urbane chairman of the Join! Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, of the committee of inquiry on the outbreak of Legionnaires' Disease in Stoke-on-Trent and of the Committee of the Departmenl of Environment concerning contamination of water supplies by cryptosporidiosis. Generations of overseas doctors had reason to thank him for his care of their postgraduate Sloane Fellow of the Royal

College of Physicians. John Badenoch's family origins were in Badenoch country around the upper strata of the Spey and in Banffshire. He showed the characteristics of the hest of the north-east Scot. thorough, infinilely patient, compassionate, wise and with a great human touch. He was at his happiest in the family home at Portsoy in Banffshire, where he is to be huried.

J. G. G. Ledingham

John Badenoch, physician: born 8 March 1920; Director, Clinical Studies, Oxford University 1954-65; Consultant Physician, Oxfordshire Health Authority 1956-85; University Lecturer in Medicine, Oxford University 1956-85; Kt 1984; Emerius Fellow, Merton College, Oxford 1987; married 1944 Anne Forster (two sons, two daughters); died 16 January 1996.



### ous little feat": Rowe as the doll to Robert Quinault's Harlequin in La Poupée d'Arlequin

### **Iris Rowe**

Iris Rowe achieved youthful fame as both a classical and an acrobatic dancer. Together with Robert Quinault, she toured widely in Europe and America. Their most popular creation, La Poupée d'Arlequin, a charming dance interlude in which Harlequin, danced by Quinault, performs an acrobatic sketch with his doll (Iris Rowe), received acclaim on both sides of the Atlantic.

Rowe's career started under the British dance teacher Margaret Morris, who described her as "one of my first and best pupils". By the age of 12 Iris Rowe was taking leading roles in Morris's Children's Seasons in London, and touring to Liverpool and Manchester. In 1915, at the age of 14, she played Puck in Beo Greel's production of A Midsummer Night's Dream at the Old Vic. and was entrusted by Morris with sole responsibility for the

arrangement of the dances. After the Second World War she joined C.B. Cochran, dancing in his revues at the London vue of 1920, London, Paris and New York, that she met Robert. Quinault of the Paris Opéra Comique, who was making his début in England, and to whose Harlequin she danced Col-

umbine. The following year saw her only venture into film. when she played the leading lady in a British Screencraft Production directed by C.C. Calvert, entitled Roses in the Dust, She then rejoined Quinault, forming the partnership for which she was perhaps best known. She spent two years in America as leading dancer in the Ziegfeld Follies, but remained comparatively unknown in England. In 1930 she returned to England, posing to illustrate a series of articles on technique by Tamara Karsavina

studying the Russian dancer Alice Nikitina, The critic Arnold Haskell, in an article in the Dancing Times, considered that she eclipsed her Russian rival in technique, artistry and charm. Here is an artist," be wrote, "who so far has had far less opportunity than she deserves ... an English dancer, famous on the Continent,

in the Dancing Times, and in an-

other Cochran revue, under-

He went on to quote the verdict of the Russian critic André Levinson, who was never lavish in his praise: "She will he a big star - marvellous little feet, remarkably well placed, a magnificent impetus in all gyratory ter); died 6 January 1996.

whose talent is only guessed at

in England."

movements, steel muscles, childish grace and suppleness. Here then are rare things

united in one small person." This promise seems never to have been realised in full. Her career, continued for a few more years, with appearances with such names as Serge Lifar, Anton Dolin and Stanislas Idzinowsky, after which she seems to have lost touch with the world of dance completely and permanently.

Rowe was also, from early youth, an accomplished artist, with a charming and original style. At the age of 10 she was awarded a Royal Drawing Society prize, and a number of her drawings were published in magazines and annuals in her early leens, with the encouragement of the publisher J.M. Dent. Later she designed costumes and illustrations for her dances and worked briefly for an art agency after leaving the theatre.

After her second marriage in 1939 she devoted herself to her family and to her garden, ng her past.

Felicity Wild

Iris Caroline Rowe, dancer and artist: born London 10 October 1900; twice married (one daugh-

### Peter Stadlen

Bayan Northcott Sobituaries. 23 January] does not mention Peter Stadlen's enforced wartime sojourn in Australia, writes

Ronald Stent. Like thousands of other German and Austrian refugees, Stadlen was interned in the summer of 1940 and shipped under atrocious conditions to Australia, The Home Office, reacting to an application signed by Thomas Mann, Yehudi Menuhin and Eleanor Roosevelt, amongst others, had actually ordered his release,

but, by the time it did so,

sor David Lodge, author, 61; Mr

Alfred Marks, actor and comedian, 75; The Rev David Morris, MEP, 66;

Mr Claes Oldenburg, pop artist, 67; Mr Gordon Prentice MP, 45; Mr Nick

Raynsford MP, 51; Mr Ronnie Scon.

jazz musician, 69: Maj-Gen Martin

Simult, former senior executive and secretary, Kennel Club, 68; Sir Trevor

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John Tavener, composer, 52; Mr David Thompson, former chairman,

Rank Xerox UK, 64; Sir Michael

Weir, former diplomat, 71; The Rev Barrington White, former Princi-

pal, Regent's Park College, Oxford, 62; The Right Rev James Whyte, for-

mer moderator of the General As-

sembly of the Church of Scotland, 76:

Lord Windlesham, Principal, Brasenose College, Oxford, 64; Robert Wyatt, rock musician, 51.

bassador 10 Mongolia, 58; Profe

Stadlen was already on the

On board ship he was a constant source of cheer to his fellow prisoners, encouraging them to sing. Among the few possessions he managed to bring was a piano transcript of Handel's Israel in Egypt. One internee had brought his violin, and on precious lavatory paper Stadlen transcribed the score for the violin and voices.

Once the internees were seltled in a camp in the New South Wales bash, Stadlen formed a choir of 75 male voices and arranged a concert performance of Handel's work in front of the camp officers and local dignitaries. Later on there were performances of Mozart's C Major Mass, of a Palestrina Mass and of the Prisoner

Chorus of Fidelio. It look over a year before Stadlen was returned to England. When he finally disembarked at Liverpool, he heard on the tannoy that Dr Vaughan Williams wanted him to get in touch urgently. He told me some years ago that this pleased him greatly.

### **Edward Thomas**

Edward Thomas worked for British intelligence in different capacities but with equal disunction throughout his life. during the Second World War as a naval intelligence officer and at Bletchley Park, afterwards at the Joint Intelligence Bureau, and latterly on the official history of British intelli-gence in the Second World War. At Bletchley in 1942 to 1943,

he joined the naval component of the 24-hour watch which, working in shifts, translated and annotated German and ttalian signals from the Western Desert and the Mediterranean and transmitted them to the Admiralty and to the naval, army and air commands in the Mid-dle East. This service was among Bletchley's most important contributions to the Allied war effort; it was directly instrumental in first delaying and then defeating Rommel in the desert, and was valuable, if less decisive, during the

Tunisian campaign.
Thomas was born in 1918, and educated at Portsmouth and Guildford Grammar Schools and then, from 1937 to 1940, at King's College London. In 1940, having joined the RNVR, he was posted as a naval intelligence officer to Iceland, where his duties included the management of the station that took direction-finding bearings on the radio transmissions of German U-boats. In Fehruary 1942 he was transferred to Bletchley Park, which was then experiencing a great surge in the its decryptions.

At the end of the war in Africa, in May 1943, Thomas was posted as intelligence officer and adviser on signals intelligence to the Commanderin-Chief Home Fleet, In this capacity his knowledge of the

German navy's signal routines and of Bletchley's cryptanalyt-ical procedures was called upon during many operations off the Norwegian coast and on the Arctic convoy roules, and not least during the operation in which the Home Fleet destroyed the battle cruiser Schamhorst in December 1943. He once said that he would never forget the terrible sight of the Schamliorst glowing red-hot throughout, from stern to stern, in the Arctic darkness in the minutes before she sank. It was after this engagement that, on the recommendation of the

Commander-in-Chief, Admi-

ral Sir Bruce Fraser, he was

awarded his DSC. In 1946 Thomas joined the Joint Intelligence Bureau, which was then replacing the wartime Joint Intelligence Committee as the agency for Central Intelligence analysis. He served in this until 1970, when he took early retirement to pursue his other interests. These were many and varied. Effective and enthusiastic in all he did, he was an expert gardener - so expert that on a visit to Malaysia, he discovered the plant named after him, Fiffistigma Thomasii - and a fine musician, the life and soul of more than one local orchestra. The nephew of the poet Edward Thomas, he was an attenuve guardian of the memory of his uncle's life and works as co-President of the Edward Thomas Society. From time to time he translated a German book for British publishers. Above all, however, he loved his family and cherished his friends; and his friends were legion for,

old friendships and making new Despite the call of these oth-



er interests, his early retirement did not succeed in extricating him from the world of intelli gence. In 1971 he became a founder member of the team that was being appointed to pro-duce the official history, British Intelligence in the Second World War, a project with which he stayed till the publication of the fourth and penultimate vol-ume in 1988. His dedication to this work over so many years was indispensible to its progress; and as the volumes he helped to produce were without precedent and without parallel. in that no other government has sanctioned so full and frank an account of its most secret activities, they form a fitting

memorial to his many talents. He married in 1964 Ruth Dyson, till recently Professor of Harpsichord at the Royal College of Music. She survives him together with his son and daughter from an earlier marriage.

Harry Hinsley

Edward Eastaway Thomas, intelligence officer, born Walton-on-Thames 16 May 1918; DSC 1945; twice married (one son, one daughter); died Dorking, Surrey 22 January 1996.

### George Sinclair-Stevenson

just as he did not accept fools

gladly, he excelled in keeping

George Sinclair-Stevenson was once the doyen of the lawyers

of Hong Kong.

The personification of the English gentleman, he was elegantly mannered, discreet, and dressed to match. He was of a family which helped establish the good name of Britain in the world and in its third generation to be born abroad. He inherited from an Argentinian great-uncle the title of Baron of Belgrano but he never used it.

He was brought up and educated in New Jersey. But in 1924 Cheltenham College became his Alma Mater, then eternouse. Cambridge, where he graduated in Modern Languages and Law. He qualified

as a lawyer in 1926. A true patriot, he joined the Supplementary Reserve in 1938 and was gazetted as an officer into the Coldstream Guards. Six foot six inches tall, handsome and debonair, he looked the part. A year later he was living it in full measure. A gifted linguist, he acted as a liaison officer with Allied forces in North Africa, Belgium and Germany.

He returned to law in 1946 hut, after three years, was attracted to Macmillans the publishers, and appointed head of their Amsterdam office. In 1951 he forsook publishing for general trading, to become vice-president of the house of Bunge, in Tokyo. When he accepted a three-year contract with a small firm of solicitors in Hong Kong, the arrangement proved so satisfactory that he

bought out the firm and retitled

it Stevenson, Low, From then until his retirement in 1991, he was its senior partner, legal adviser to the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, and the holder of a number of directorships

and consultancies. A gregarious and clubbable man, George Sinclair-Stevenson was President of the Law Society of Hong Kong and of the Hong Kong Society of Notaries, a member of the Hoog Kong General Chamber of Commerce and of the Supreme Court Rules Committee. He was also twice President of the Hong Kong YMCA and an active member of the Hong Kong

Jockey Club, part-owning several horses. Sinclair-Stevenson had a pronounced, albeit discreet, love of life's pleasures. He kept a gourmet's cellar and was a founder member of Hong Kong's Tuesday Club, a gathering of the community's high-

fliers. He loved women, too, and



was married four times; first in 1938 to his compatriot Gioria Gordon. Their only child, the publisher Christopher Sinclair-Stevenson, inherits the title of Baron. His second wife was Belpan, Lydia Eggerick, who died. In 1966 he married Marie Pui-Lai Young, a Chinese, a marriage that lasted for 25 years. His fourth wife was Swiss. Dynamic and attractive, Sonja Lindblad was the vice-president of the Lindblad Travel shipping line. But he had become pessimistic about Hong Kong. In a valedictory speech he said, "I have seeo the better years of Hoog

watch the end of them all." He and Sonia Lindhlad relired to the Mediterranean island of Gozo, Malta. There. they married and magnificently reconditioned an old farmhouse to which friends from all over the world came to visit them. Both continued to be consulted and, right up until his death, Hong Kong people continued to seek the opinion of this scholarly and silken man

Kong, I do not really want to

### with the common touch. **Avril Mollison**

George Egbert Sinclair-Stevenson, lawyer: born Langford, New Jersey 25 December 1911; MBE 1946; senior partner, Stevenson, Low 1951-91; married 1938 Gloria Gordon (one son; marriage dissolved 1947), 1948 Lydia Eggerick (died 1965), 1966 Marie Pui-Lai Young (marriage dissofved 1992), 1992 Sonja Lindblad; died Gozo, Malta 14 January 1996.

# Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, in Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, lelephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or fixed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at \$6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements inotices, functions, Forth-(VAT extra). UTHEK Gazette an-nouncements i notices, functions, Forth-coming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They onld be accompanied by a daytime ephone number.

### Lectures

TODAY National Gallery: Rachel Barnes, "Looking Backwards (iv): Van Gogh, An Autumn Garden", 12pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Frances Musker, "17th- and 18th-cenhry Fashionable Dress, 230pm. Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, "Ready-Made Art", 1pm. National Portrait Gallery: Ann

TOMORROW Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury. "Painters' Points of View", 2.50pm. National Portrait Gallery: Rosemary Kelly, "The Trial and Exe of King Charles I", 3pm.

Kodicek, "Diaghilev in London".

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Changing of the Guard

Birthdays TODAY: Mr Mohamed Al-Fayed. chairman of Harrods Holdings, 63; Professor Gillian Beer, President of Clare Hall, Cambridge, 61; Mr Nicholas Bomford, Headmaster, Harrow, 57; Sir Wilfrid Bourne QC, former Permanent Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Office, 74; Dr Robert Burchfield, former editor of the Oxford English Dictionary Supplement, 72; Mr John Bury, theatre, opera and film designer, 71; Mr Michael Collins, clarinettist, 34; Sir Kenneth Corfield, former chairman, STC, 72; Mrs Mairead Corrigan-Maguire. joint Nobel Peace prizewinner, 52; Mr Michael Craig, actor and playwright, 67; Baroness Cumberlege, Under-Secretary, Department of Health, 53: Lord Dunboyne, former circuit judge, 79; Sir John Eccles, physiologist, 93; Air Commodore the Hon Timothy Etworthy, Captain of the Queen's Flight, 58; The Right Rev Henry Halsey, former Bishop of Carlisle, 77; Brigadier Rita Hennessy, former matron-in-chief, QARANC, 63; Mr John Hopkins, playwright, 65: Señor Federico Mayor Zaragoza, Director-General, Unesco, 62; Mr Alan Milburn MP, 38; Miss Nina Milkina. concert pianist, 77; Baroness Rawl-Corfield, former chairman, STC, 72; concert pianist, 77; Baroness Rawlings, former MEP, 57; Mr Mordecai Richler, novelist and playwright, 65; Lord Ris, actor and former secretary-general of Mencap, 72; Mr Roger Sims MP, 66; Mr Neville Trotter MP, 64; Sir William van Straubenzee, former MP, 72; Lord Vinson, inventor, and Chairman, Institute of Eco-

TOMORROW: Mr Alan Alda, actor. 60; Mr Bobby Ball, comedian, 52; Mr

Mikhail Baryshnikov, dancer. 48:

Mr Acker Bilk, jazz clarinettist, 66;

Mr James Callaghan MP, 69; Miss

Enid Castle, Principal, Cheltenham

Ladies' College, 60: Sir Oliver

Chesterion, chartered surveyor, 83;

Mr James Cran MP, 52: Mr John Ed-

Anniversaries TODAL: Births: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. composer, 1756; Samuel Palmer, landscape painter, 1805; Lewis Carroll (Charles Lorwidge Dodgson), author, 1832; Jerome David Kern, composer, 1885; Iya Grigoryevich Ehrenburg, poet and novelist IS91. Deaths: Giuseppe Fortenino Francesco Verdi. composer, 1901; Giovanni Verga, novel-ist and playwright, 1922; Dame Gwen

Firangeon-Davies, actress, 1992. On

this day: the independence of Greece

was proclaimed, 1822; a patent for

monds, general secretary, GMB, 52: the electric lamp was taken out by

Mr Michael Falcon, former chairman, Thomas A. Edison, 1879; television was first demonstrated publicly by John Logie Baird, 1926; a ceasefire began in Vietnam, 1973. Today is the Norwich Union Insurance, 68: Mr Glyn Ford, MEP, 46; Sir Anthony Garner, parliamentary and public af-fairs consultant, 69; Miss Frances Feast Day of St Angela Merici, St Ju-lian of Le Mans, St Marius or May Gumky, television and radio pro-ducer and broadcaster, 41; Mr John Hughes, former Principal of Ruskin and St Vitalian, pope. College, Oxford, 69; Mr Bill Jordan, president, AEEU, 60; Sir Timothy Kitson, chahman, Provident Finan-cial plc, and former MP, 65; Profes-

TOMORROW: Births: Charles George Gordon, general and hero of Khartoum, 1833; Coleffe (Gabrielle Sidonie Coleffe) author, 1873; Artur Rubinstein, pianist, 1889; Paul Jack-son Pollock, abstract artist, 1912. Deaths Charlemagne, Frankish em-peror, 814; King Henry VIII, 1547; Sir Francis Drake, sailor, at sea 1596; Sir Thomas Bodley, founder of the Bodleian Library, 1613; William Butier Yeats, poet and playwright, 1939: Herbert Ernest Bates, povelist, 1974. On this day: the Diet of Worms began, 1521; the Independent on Sunday was first published, 1990. Tomorrow is the Feast Day of SI Amadeus of Lausanne, St Paulinus of Aquileia, St Peter Nolasco, St Peter Thomas and St Thomas Aguings

### Luncheons

Newspaper Conference Miss Berty Boothroyd MP, Speaker of the House of Commons, was guest of honour and speaker at the annual luncheon of the Newspaper Conference held yesterday evening at the London Hilton, Londoo W1. Mr John Hipwood, Chairman of the Conference, presided.

### Dinners

Honourable Artillery Company Major D.P. Gordon, Squadron Commander, Signal Squadron, Honourable Artillery Company, presided at the Annual Dinner held yesterday evening in the Long Room at Armoury House, London EC1. Lt-Gen S. Cowan was the principal guest Lieutenant J.A. Bowman also spoke.

### Public policy versus Christian principles and moral absolutes against relativism. Yet

One definition of a moral leader is one whom people are unwilling to follow. In all the discussions about hypocrisy and education which have dominated this week, no one seems to have made the link between Philip Lawrence, the headmaster killed outside his school, and little Joe Dromey, Harriet Harman's son.

Philip Lawrence has been almost canonised in death, and quite deservedly. He seems to have been a very good teacher and a much-loved man. His death, stabbed to death outside his school while defending pupils from a gang of bullies, was a genuinely inspiring tragedy. There can hardly have been a parent in Britain who did not wish that their own children were looked after by such a man. This reflection, however, will have been followed almost instantaneously by another: that if I have any choice in the matter, my children are not going to attend a school where it is necessary for the headmaster to lay down his life to defend them from other children, however infrequently

this necessity may arise. Such a decision might disappoint Cardinal Hume. He has fought hitter battles with Catholic parents in London about retaining the comprehensive character of Catholic secondary schooling. Some of these may be due to the conviction, natural to any former headmaster, that the last people who should have anything to do with education policy are parents; more, I suspect, derive from a belief in community. If Christianity is a universal religion, then Christian schools, like families, should teach people to live together who would not if they had any choice in the matter share the same continent, let alone the same classroom.

# faith o reason

Andrew Brown considers the curious gap between the religious teachings that

other people so obviously need, and those which we are prepared to tolerate ourselves.

Only last week, Bishop David Konstant of Leeds told a conference of Catholic independent schools that if forgone tax cuts meant that fewer parents could or would choose to have their children privately educated, this was "a sacrifice that should he made for the greater good of the whole

community".

Joe Dromey's elder brother attends a Catholic school in the archdiocese of Westminster, so Ms Harman's decision must be seen as a slight on Catholic education policy as well as on that of old Labour. Like the rest of us middle-class types, she helieves that even if society depends on the labour of heroes like Philip Lawrence, it is better for our own children to rely on

the efforts of more average teachers. That the Catholic Church finds itself to the left of new Labour in this matter is yet another illustration of the extraordinary divide between what the churches actually believe and practice, and what public opinion believes of them. The image of Philip Lawrence after his death was of the two don't go together at all. The moral absolutes propounded by Christian teaching have very little to do with traditional values, and this becomes increasingly clear as the churches in the West slide back into a pre-Constantiniao state of ineffectual purity.

The values that keep society going and which get governments elected are not universalist at all. In a modern, well-polled democracy, getting elected depends on promising your supporters more at the expense of the worthless parasites on the other side. Families show a marked and frequently unreasonable preference for their own members. William Temple said that the Christian churches were the only institutions that existed for the henefit of people who are not members. It follows that public policy cannot be conducted by wholly Christian principles, since the political world is composed of institutions which do exist for the benefit of their members, and shrivel if they forget this.

This is not a startlingly new conclusion. It belongs in that wide list of things that the English churches now believe without anyone else noticing that they helieve them. Yet the ironies to which it gives rise are only likely to multiply as the next election approaches. On education, on immigration, and on taxation the mainstream churches turn out to be as close to Arthur Scargill as they are to any of the mainstream parties. And getting close to Arthur is not what most people would understand as following the Messiah. There must be something extremely strange and incoherent about our notion of community when this can happen, even if it a staunch defender of traditional values happens largely unnoticed,



'I think most work is pointless. There are only three or four things you do a day that have any effect on your business'

# The barbarian

. Eyeing the prize

wo years is a long time to stalk your prey. In the City's infamously shortterm view, two years is a lifetime, and the risks mount with every passing week. Too many people get to know your plans. The adversary can build its fortifications, and the target's share price starts moving up, out of reach of a hostile bid.

It is amazing that Granada could target Forte for so long without anybody outside the inner circle knowing. But it happened: the secret was kept, east until the few weeks before Granada finally pounced on 22 November.

Gerry Robinson, Granada's chief executive, determined a code name early in the game. From now on, Forte would be known as "Fifi," a suitably derogatory moniker that painted the luxury hotels company as fey, flittish and profli-gate. Granada would be "Graham", after Graham Parrott, the company's commercial director: a good honest name, unpretentious and reliable. Needless to say the names gave rise to pleoty of rude jokes.

There were two companies that the Irish-born Robinsoo wanted to buy in 1993, neither of them a pushover. One, LWT, was a leading television production and broadcasting company. The other was synonymous with luxury and hospitality.

Robinson and his chief lieutenant Charles Alleo spent the autumn of 1993 mulling over the possibilities. Robinson was the strategist, the visionary, guided by simple principles of cost cootrol and economies of scale. Allen was the details man, indefatigable and voluble.

The two men liked what they saw in Forte: it was an underperforming company with valuable assets, and ripe for takeover. The chain of budget and mid-market hotels and one of the UK's largest roadside restaurant businesses, under the names Little Chef and Happy Eater, fitted perfectly, believed, with Granada's own operations. The upmarket botels were less attractive to a company such as Granada, which knew lots about catering next to nothing about luxury accommodation. That could be overcome through massive asset sales if the bid succeeded.

However, there were more fundamental obstacles - not least the presence of family management who would fight strenuously, and an antiquated share structure that gave eight doddering titled men - the Council of Forte - control of 50 per cent of the votes in any

takeover battle. "We just didn't think we could overcome that," Robinson says. He was also prepared to helieve that Forte's new management team might be given support by shareholders, making a hostile hid difficult to mount. Nevertheless, Robinson asked Granada's bankers, the blue-chip establishment firm Lazard Brothers, to have a close look at Forte.

Being the illuminating tale of how 'Graham' stole 'Fifi' from under her master's nose. By

### Mathew Horsman and **David Hellier**

intimately involved in the bid discussions. John Nelson, the firm's vice-chairman and John Dear, the managing director, took a personal interest, aware that a bostile bid would generate millions for the bank.

The team decided to lauoch

the LWT bid first. Throoghout 1994, Granada management worked growth could not deliver the

oo integrating LWT with its existing televisioo operations.
Ooce the LWT deal was done," Dear says, "it had to be bedded down before the company could sensibly look at another acquisition."
But Robinson and Allen kept

a close watch oo Forte, and received reports from Lazard at regular intervals. They also took turns visiting Forte hotels and restaurants: trying out meous, checking oo service quality, timing waitresses. Says Robinson: "It was quite unfair - Charles got to stay at the George V while I stayed at the Posthouse in Ipswich."

As yet, the visits were informal, Allen and Robinson would exchange anecdotes about a about how ooe or another and asked Lazard to come up visit to a Happy Eater, or muse

1958 Forte buys the Waldorf,

1985 Forte opens its first Travelodge.

1991 Gerry Robinson arrives at Granada, 1992 Sir Rocco Forte takes over from Lord Forte.

7 Dec Forte issues défence document.

Posthouse might be improved. By the summer of 1995, Robinson was itching for another acquisition. For Granada, growth by takeover was a necessary strategy. The company's core business of TV rentals, broadcasting and leisure were expanding at a respectable rate and throwing off pleoty of cash, but organic

results Robinsoo was used to delivering to shareholders. Moreover, the news from Lazard was encouraging. Forte's share price was weak and Granada's was stroog, Nelsoo and Dear pointed out. Robinson had an excellent reputation in the City. They had also decided the Council of

Forte might oot be the obsta-

cle that everyone had thought. On 2 August, Forte announced stronger but still muted profits, following Sir Rocco's two-year restructuring programme. Robinson saw his chance. The next day, the bid team was put on full war footing. Robinson lined up extra support from Granada's brokers, Hoare Govett and BZW,

with a blueprint for a hostile offer. At a key meeting in August, the team that would work together throughout the bid gathered at Granada's modest office in Golden Square. In addition to Robinson, Allen, Nelson and Dear. Simon de Zoete represented BZW and Simon Bragg attended from Hoare Govell Henry Staunton, Granada's finance director, and Jonathan Clare, of PR firm Citigate, completed the group.

Sensing that it was time to be serious, the team agreed new, sobre code names for the operation: Granada would henceforth be "Madrid," while Forte was dubbed "Rome."

Meanwhile, Granada managers were seot out to Forte sites around the country, to gather intelligence. The aim was to identify where profits could be improved. Says Dear: The whole hid did oot make sense for Granada unless profits could he improved by

Adds Robinson: "We knew these were extremely good sites but that the important work would have to be done on the catering side. We developed a detailed pattern of the restaurants, graded their performance

and estimated profits growth." The other central issue was financing. Granada occided to be able to raise £1.8bn through the issue of new shares, and getting City backing was the group's first true test. (In the event, four nail-biting hours on the morning of the bid proved ecough to complete the equity financing arrangments). Oo top of that, another £2.5bn was to be raised from banks.

Secrecy had been important up until August; now it became crucial. Granada could oot risk seeing Forte's share price rise sharply or its own drop before the hid was unveiled.

Robinson had been keen to go in October, but the preparations proved too time-consuming. It was only on 14 November that the proposed bid was put to the Granada board and approved.

The following week was

dominated bymeetings and phone calls, as the offer document was prepared and the senior banks called in.

Only three banks were approached - Chemical Bank, Barclays and ABN Amro - in an effort to keep the potential for leaks to a minimum. Granada also pre-cleared the acquisition with the Office of Fair Trading, agreeing to sell Forte's 26 Welcome Break motorway service areas to avoid a reference to

monopoly regulators. Oo the eve of the hid, the team boled op in Lazard's drab City offices until the early hours for the final preparations. Phone calls were put through to six major shareholders, alerting them to the impending bid. Top of that list was Mercury Asset Management, whose vice-chairman Carol Galley would play a pivotal role in the two months of the battle.

The market had begun to sense something was up. Forte's share price rose 35p in early November, and the rumours began to fly. Forte's own advisers, including its PR firm Brunswick, received calls from Forte bead office on the eve of

### 27 Dec Sale of Forte restaurants to Whitbread for £1.05bg. 8 Jan 1996 Council of Forte agrees to self 780,000 Trust shares. 9 Jan Deadline for Granada's final bid. They boost offer 12. 15 Jan Rocco splits dual chairman and chief executive role. 16 Jan Granada launches £384m dawn raid on Forte shares.

19 Jan Rocco buys 3.9 million Forte shares in his own name.

23 Jan Granada reaches the 50 per cent needed for

Chronology

1934 Charles Forte opens Meadow Milk Bar, Regent Street.

1968 Company goes public as Forte buys Georges V, Paris.

1970 Trust Houses merge with Forte, bringing Little Chef.

1986 Forte links with PepsiCo to run Kentucky Fried Chicken.

1994 MAM backs Granada in £725m successful bid for LWT.

1955 Forte wins contract to cater Heathrow Airport.

22 Nov 1995 Granada bids £3.4 billion for Fortie.

2 Dec Forte announces sale of Lillywhites.

Chips v Chintz On the Road Happier Eater or Littler Chef

 Some outlets to close. Refurbishment and new menus in all cafes Many cafes will incorporate popular franchises such as Pizza Hut and Burger King.

Prices likely to rise.

Low-end Hotels

takeover at 2.30pm.

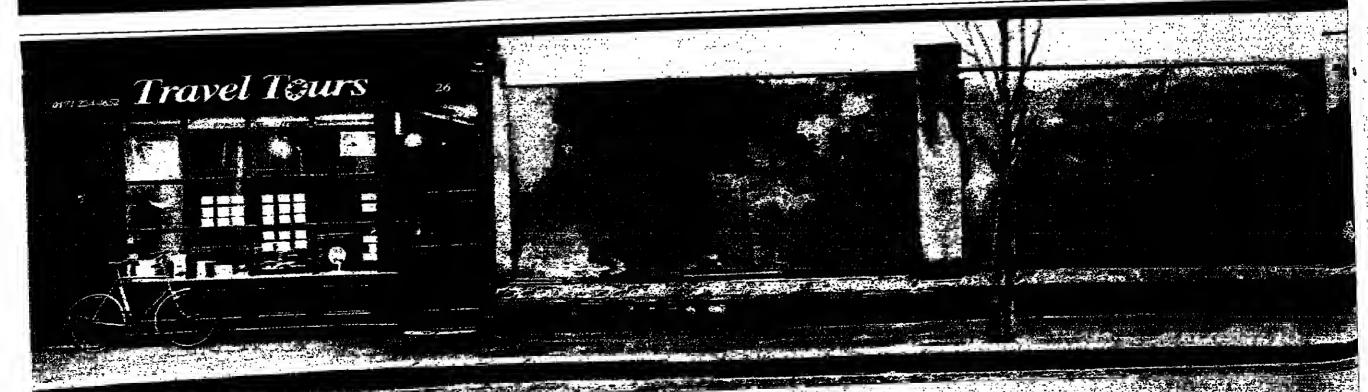
Travelodge, Posthouse Travelodge will merge with Granada lodge. Transcrouge will triefly with translated troppers
 To sites to be "significantly expanded"
 Posthouses to be "rejuvenated" with "in-room entertainment and business services", and their restaurant menus

Area-sensitive charges to maximise profits.

ligh-end Hotels

Forte Exclusive, Forte Meridien. · Granada to sell off all 103 of these luxury and business:

• Forte will bid for them, along with the 52 Heritage hotels.



If you don't listen to your customers.

INSIDE

One night Uhere " The s

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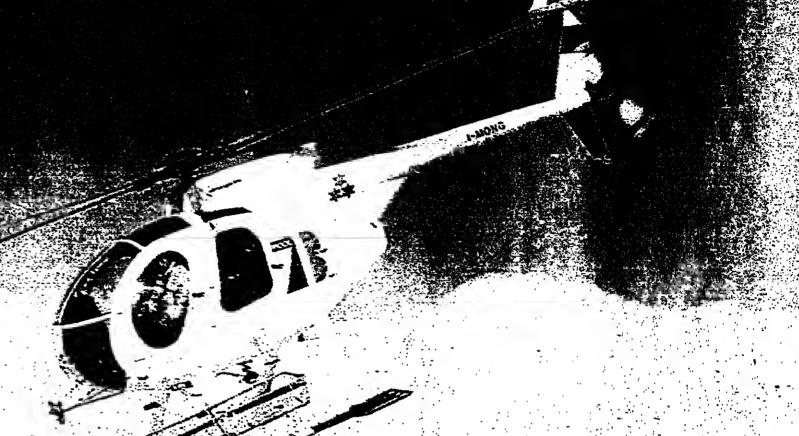
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E arguably Capital city



# Vecker and the Kernelle Report of the Kernell

Where to ski when THE SKY'S THE LIMIT









### INSIDE STORIES

- One night this bloke went "Oi, come here." The club went silent. He says "The way it works is: joke, punchline, we laugh." "Yeah," says his wife. So I went "Easy, Easy." And he went: "You calling my wife easy?" Next thing his hands are round my throat'
- Peking is ugly polluted, corrupt. It has a building site on each corner, and a population with a developed sense of disdain for foreigners. Yet this is part of the reason to visit what is arguably the most extraordinary capital city in the world
- In 1812 Lord Byron could write, 'I awoke one morning and found myself famous,' after his 'Childe Harold's Pilgrimage' was received with rapture. In 1996, writers can achieve a kind of fame long before they have published anything at all
- 20 Salesmen have rarely enjoyed a good press, but even so Daewoo's findings were spectacularly damning: their customers rated car salesmen 'marginally higher than serial killers'. Pushy, intimidating and patronising were some of the kinder adjectives



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(for Paris) • Orient-Express to Victoria £1,099

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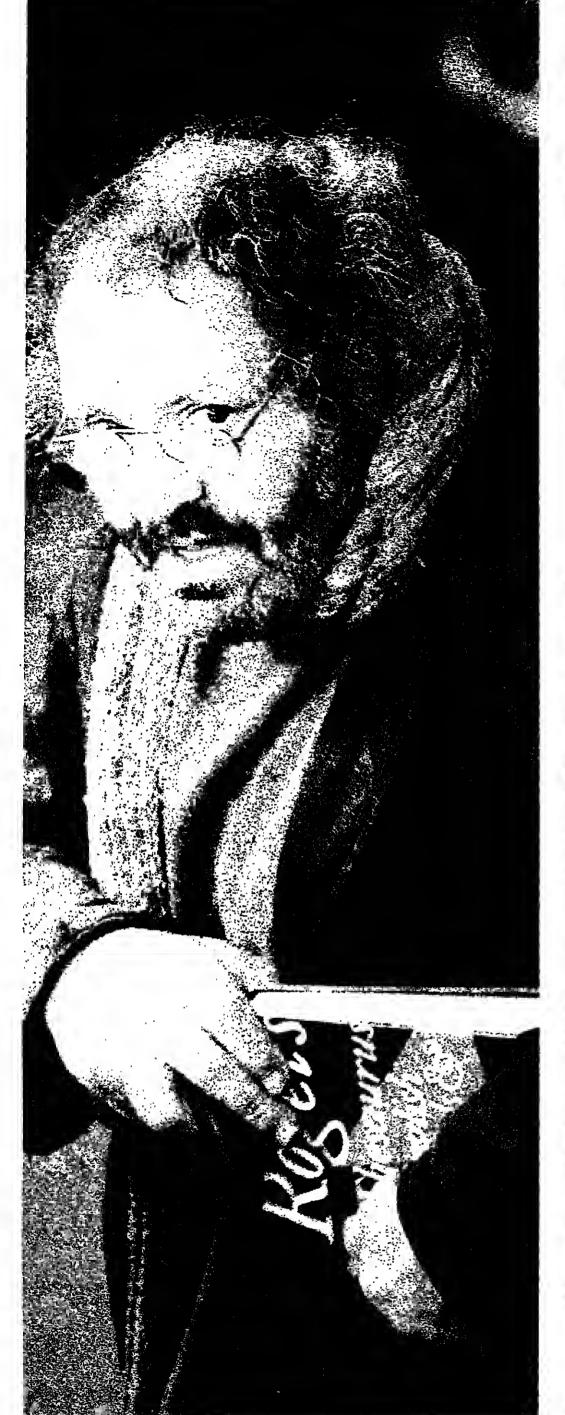


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PROPERTY 22-22
MONEY 22-22
SOUND DET 22

TODAY 28





# SILENCE, PLEASE

Pictures by Emma Boam. Story by Steven Poole.



bearded, trampishly chic. is ensconced in one of the floor-does she have to be a lesbian?" skimming armchairs, conceotrating fiercely oo Roget's Thesaurus. He's doing a crossword. "Undergrowth... Brackeo' or thicket. Yes, but that doesn't fit that one. which is 'sprained'... That's a film one - can't find that." Someone suggests an answer. "Emma Peel"? Where can I find out 'Emma Peel"? Is it a current series?"

The library is the place people come to find answers. Big aoswers, little answers. ("What's the chicken doing, mum?" "He's looking at a house.") They consult leaflets or medical encyclopedias, gaze at the small ads, read the papers, or drift around, just browsing. One businesslike woman, clutching a handful of CDs, bas set herself on a course of musical education: "Tm working through the classics. I'm on

Lunchtime, and an elderly lady has stopped at a revolving stand of paperback crime oovels. She has no time for some of the library's recent innovations, such as the section heading "Goo", promising "A Good Read". "It's oot very oice, is it? It's bloody patronising." she says with a girlish chuckle, waving her walking-stick for emphasis. "If I'm pushed for time. I go to crime paper-

t's Saturday morning at Keotish Town Library in London, A Fal-woman's one, now, I find the staffian figure of a man, russet- detective is female. Now I don't

9)

In the children's section, three sisters are studying. Elizaheth. eight, is looking up information about the pyramids. We're doing a project on Tutankhamun, and the face that he had on his grave. Not the face he had on." Six-year-old Rachel is "looking up the body, what's inside it, so when I'm older I can say to Muni and Dad, I like the library, it's full of knowledge."

The afternoon wears somewhat sleepily oo. People are idly leafing through newspapers. A woman, snug in a furry hat, sleeps, her head oodding forward into a splayed copy of an appreciation of John Gielgud, As darkness falls, the children's section starts emptying; soon all that remains is a pink-and-blue toy triceratops lying abandoned on the floor.

Folded up in armehair and a beige mac is Philip Toms, a news-paper vendor with bird-like blue eyes. He's been here, reading, for hours. "This is a crime thing. It's about a wealthy family, and the elder son went off the rails and ended up murdering the whole family. It's based on the true facts." He has his owo theory about crime.
I think there's no deterrent at all. except for chaining 'em to the wall. It's the lifestyle. This is the Nineties: it's dog eat dog. That's why I come into public libraries."



THIS WEEKEND WHY NOT...

**EDITED BY DAVID BENEDICT** 

### BUY Heart of the Congos



Stock up on roast fish, collie weed and combread and settle back with this classic album. Lee "Scratch" Perry's production dates from 1977, when falsetto vocal duo The Congos dropped into Scratch's Black Ark studio with a number of key Biblical quotations on their minds. What resulted is one of the greatest roots reggae albums ever: a righteous skank through groves of Old Testament theology, underpinned by Scratch's trademark spooky shuffle and saturated with enough reverb to moisten the most dessicated palate. Listen out for cosmic moos, scrunching rowlocks and - flump! - the greatest to-tech bass drum sound of all time. Available now for the first time on disque compacte, with five additional tracks from the vaults and Blood & Fire's fabled packaging overkill. Yum.

Heart of the Congos (Blood & Fire label)

### WATCH Burnt by the Sun



There's a lot of white in Burnt by the Sun. White lace and long-fringed shawls; braids woven prettily with white ribbons, and the villain is a cad with a cable-knit cricket sweater. But this handsome film about welloff people is much too boisterous and badly behaved to be a British period-piece. It unfolds during a single long summer's day but this is one of those Northern summers with a hint of melancholy. The year is 1936 and we're in Russia. The film adopts a child's eye view of the approaching atrocities of Stalinism, but anyone expecting unleavened angst or sentiment will be arriazed by the droll humour in this generous, high-spirited film which most rhapsodic reviewers described glowingly as Chekhovian. It also won the Best Foreign Film Oscar and the Cannes Special Jury Prize.

£15.99 and available to rent

### Theatre tickets and other prizes



Today is the 15th birthday of the Half Price Ticket Booth, a mecca for theatrical bargainhunters who nab top-price tickets to West: End shows at half price. To celebrate, stars from the shows will be gathering at 12,30pm for the Birthday Fanfare, songs from the shows and everything from leaping out of cakes (very Singin' in the Rain) to distributing hundreds of prizes including theatre memorabilia, merchandise, meals and many more. Tickets to some of the best West End shows will be on sale at the usual 50 per cent discount (plus the handling fee of £2), and the day sees the launch of the Booth Bonus Card, a new scheme to encourage Londoners to use this invaluable institution. Can you afford to miss this opportunity to meet the cast of The Fields of Ambrosia, the hotty-anticipated "electric-chair musical" opening next week? Leicester Square, London WC2

### JOIN Children's Birdwatch Weekend



Not everyone is miserable about the weather. The folks at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds are rather excited because the cold weather across Europe should send some tremendously unlikely species into gardens across the land, from waxwings to Scandinavian arctic redpoles. These rare visitors fly over when food sources are scarce there. Children wanting to take part should (swaddled in scarves) watch their garden or local park for one hour this weekend and record the highest number of each species of bird seen at any one time. Birds that land on the ground or in trees and bushes should be counted, but not those flying overhead. Will the blue tit topple the starting from its number one spot? Will

the song thrush make a corneback this year? For free information pack and voting details. write to YOC Big Garden Birdwatch, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds SG19 2DL

### VISIT-The Nationa Railway Museum



Have you ever seen a woman clipping tickets on a train? British Raif may well be an equal opportunities employer, but from growling announcements about leaves on the line to management warnings against privatisation to surly guards telling you as little as possible; the image of the railways is overwhelmingly male. Thanks to "Oh! Mrs Porter" the National Railway Museum exhibition, we now know that the first recorded women, writtens were instruced. way museum explanation, we now make the first recorded women workers were gatekeep ers over 350 years ago. By the First World War, there were women porters, ticket collectors, cleaners and Armie Eva Martin was sworn in as the first woman special railway constable on 5 March 1917, but the first woman driver didn't begin work until 1981. The exhibition is amentire social and political history. Not just for anoraks.

National Railway Museum, Learnan Road, York YO2 4XJ (01904 621261)



# Ooch, er, cripes

For Steve Coogan, a part in a children's movie; for Lee Evans, a lead in the new Bruce Willis thriller. As far as Hollywood is concerned, the bloke with the enormous dry-cleaning bills is Britain's hottest comic property. By Jim White

ne evening earlier this week, Lee Evans was finishing off a day's rchearsal for his all-new West End show in a hired room in Soho. He had just completed running through the punishing opening sequence in which he falls down a Busby Berkeleystyle flight of stairs, tumbles through a trap-door and ends up marooned under the siage, unable to communicate with his audience: and all in about 20 seconds. As he finished, awash with sweat, panting, he found himself confronted by the woman who had booked the room for the next session,

"She takes one look at me, and of course I'm all like, wired," says Evans, recalling the incident by performing a mime of a very wired person. "And she goes, 'Oh dear'. And I says 'What?' And she says, 'Oh dear, I'm sorry', And I says 'Whai?' And she says, I'm not sure if I can be much use, you need professional help.' It turns out she's running a relaxation class there."

Anyone who has seen Lee Evans on stage would quickly conclude he is well beyond the reach of relaxation classes; limbs defying all known rules of skeletal construction; sweat washing from every pore; face gurning into the sort of pose your mother used to warn you about adopting in case the wind changed, he tumbles around in a Norman Wisdom cast-off suit in the sort of way that suggests major damage is inevitable. Relaxing it isn't; his is the kind of exhibition of clowning perfected by Buster Keaton, a physical tour de force that leaves his audience exhausted and him with one of the higgest dry cleaning hills in Essex.

There's this Greek hloke in Southend does my cleaning," Evans says. "At one point he refused to clean them: 'Sorry I no clean them anymo', Mr Lee.' Then he came up with this new formula to clean suits that have really had it, make them look fahulous again. And he did it by experimenting on my suits. I go through suits at a terrible rate. See, it's the sweat, it rots the

Just at the moment, worrying where his next suit is coming from problem for Lee Evans. In 1996 he will undertake the following: a solo standup (and fall-down) season in the West End, a one-hour special for ITV, a sixpart series for Channel 4 and a six-part series for NBC television in America. Oh, and two Hollywood movies, including one which starts filming in April, directed by Luc Besson and starring Bruce Willis. He is, in short, Britain's hottest comic property, facing the kind of career uptake, he says (adopting a Donald Sinden accent) "that many a thesp would give their right bollock for". Not had, this, for a lad who when he left school could barely read.

Lee seems to be the comedy name of the moment. There's Lee Cornes, a stalwart of the London circuit; there's Lee Hurst, whose shining pare is the weekly butt, as it were, of Nick Hancock in BBC1's They Think It's All Over, and there's Lee Sharpe, presently something of a joke in Manchester United's midfield. But any suggestion that Evans is a Lee-come-lately is to ignore the long evening of graft that preceded his overnight success. Evans's dad, Dave, was a jobbing entertainer, who played piano, sax and drums on the club circuit in the Sixties and Seventies. Our Lee spent most of his childhood by night sitting in the car outside gigs with a shandy and a packet of crisps and by day flitting from school to school, pulling faces at the hack of class in the vain hope of being accepted. When his parents finally settled down, in Southend, he was a teenager and virtually uneducated. So he took himself off to art college in Thurrock (in herween getting married at 17 to Heather, who is still his wife), where he found outlet for the thing he was good at: music.

"I was the drummer in a band called the Forgotten Five. And that's what we were: forgotten, hig time. We did our own stuff, played places like Shrimpers in Brentwood and the Esplanade Southend and we were crap. Our lead singer snapped at anything. His name was David Salmon. At gigs you'd be drumming away and suddenly you'd hear this 'Boinggg' and you'd turn round and Dave's guitar's wrapped round this bloke's head and the hloke's going 'I never said a thing'. And Dave's going 'You hloody did'. That was nightly. He's a postman now, Dave. He came to see us in Cardiff on the last tour. He could not believe it, there's 3,500 people in this hall and it hlew him away. Afterwards he said: 'It's everything we dreamed of as kids. I just never thought, man. Not you Lee."

If Dave was surprised, even more astonished would be some of the people who witnessed Evans in his early days as a comedian. Driven by penury into lrying his hand at everything (including a spell as assistant to Ted, the on stage and the cry would go out: 'Kill went: 'You calling my wife easy?' Next edy routine.



spiritualist window dresser for a Southend department store), he spent most nights at talent contests in Essex pubs, doing gags like "My wife's so fat she ain't got measurements, she's got time zones.

"One time I gor picked up by this small time agent." Evans recalls.
"You'd go great in Manchester, you would. You'd smash 'em,' he says. So he put me on this tour of Manchester, Bradford and Bolton working men's clubs. And go smash I did. I'd turn up

'im'. These were clubs where the cabaret was booked for target practice. Take Liverpool. Liverpool's a comedy city and that was the trouble. I weren't funny. One night this bloke in the audience went 'Oi, come here'. And everyone in the club stopped and it went silent as I walked off the stage lowards him. He says: 'You see the way it works here is: joke, punch-line, we laugh." Then his wife next to him went: Yeah, he's right; joke, punch-line, then we laugh.' So I went: 'Easy, easy.' And he

thing he's got me on the floor with his hands round me throat going: 'You twat.' And everyone's going: 'ave 'im Bert, go 'head, eh, do 'im'. I only escaped because the manager got me out through the kitchens."

Like everything he says, this anecdote is accompanied by a furious mime which ends with Evans clutching his own throat, choking while attempting to punch himself on the nose. He is not one to let an experience pass which can be later workshopped up into a com-

"I can't stop staring at people," he says. "I nearly got beat up at Heathrow last year, I was staring at this bloke and he goes: 'What you staring at.' I said 'No, no, no, I'm not.' But I was. And he went for me. He had this funny twist in his hack, see."

And off he goes again, performing a frankly schizophrenic routine in which a man with a funny twist in his back struggling along with a couple of suircases starts threatening himself: "What you staring at, I'm not. I'll do yah. I'm not. I'll have you. No, stop. Aaargh."

At the end of which, Evans collapses in high-pitched hysterics: "Hurururur.

Hurururur. Hurururur. Undaunted hy his Liverpool mauling in the mid-Eighties, Evans decided to try his hand closer to his Southend

home, on the London puh circuit. This was the time when to be a comedian there meant saying 'Thatcher' and everyone hissing," he says. "Well I used to come on, do my stuff, fall over and that, and you could see the audience just thinking: 'What

the bloody bell...'"

From there, it was just a short step to the Edinburgh Festival, the summer feeding ground of the London circuit. An easy option, you would have thought, after the gruelling appren-

ticeship in Liverpool.
"No, it was difficult in its own way," he says. "You feel you don't helong, because you haven't got the hrains. I always feel inadequate, whatever I do. I use that as a motivation, though. I think; how comes I'm not accepted."

After five years of summering in Edinburgh, he finally was accepted, winning the Perrier Award, the annual title for best new comedian which generally comes complete with a fat television contract.

"I couldn't believe I'd won it. I'd never won anything, ever, nothing. And I won it, I mean, it was... And he performs a mime of an ecstatic person in such a way that you believe it probably was like that for him.

The thing that really projected Lee Evans into the upper reaches, however, was his appearance last year in Peter Chelsom's film Funny Bones. A remarkable piece about the bastard off-spring of a great American standup finding himself adopted by a sad family of English end-of-pier comics. it was a cult hit in America.

"Everyone loved it," he says, "but it kind of disappeared just as it was taking off. It doesn't matter to me. because everyone in the industry went and said [adopts a hig film-producer style American accent] 'Let's sign the kid up for movies. You wanna do movies kid?' And then what happened was they present your script where you're lost in a desert with a dog and you have to look down at the dog and say: 'Will we ever get out of here Charlie?' And you go: 'I ain't doing that.' I turned loads down. About 10 1 turned down. But, see, I didn't want to go too hig. I'm still learning, the worse thing you can do is set yourself up as something and then die on your arse. When Luc Besson came along, hang, wallop, I'm there. I signed this thing not to say anything about it. But I tell you, Bruce Willis is in it. And the reason I'm doing it is: I'll learn. Next to him, you know, he'll be all [adopts a hig Willis-like accent] 'Don't put the camera on me there buddy, the light's bad." And I'll be all 'Oooh, er, cripes, so that's how to do it'."

"To tell you the truth," he adds, "my pants are full. Up to the hrim. That's the way I am. It's like this live show. I've sunk a lot of money into it - eek - I mean I earnt a hit of money last year, what's it for? I don't drink, I don't hird it, so I've decided to spend it on the show."

And spend he has: on props like a piano with a mind of its own, or a set of spinning plates which rotate in slow motion to facilitate a typically surreal sketch about, well, a slow-

motion circus plate-spinner.
"See, I'm rerrified of failing. It's the West End, I'm terrified of not giving them enough. I'm a bit paranoid about that. It's my higgest drawback. that, I waste a lot of time and money.

After he has concluded a whole performance of a photo session, in which he pulls a thousand faces and strikes a hundred ruhber-limbed poses and leaves his audience of two damp with laughing. Evans heads back to his tiny little Soho office.

Walking through Soho with Lee Evans takes a hit of time, what with all the conversations he has with people, the little impromptu performances he gives and the amount of taughing he does. Others with faces made famous by the telly must get stopped by their public, but the difference with Lee Evans is, it's him doing the stopping. "All right mate. how you doing?" he asks a rather bemused youth in a Russian hat before shaking him hy the hand; "Fanks mate, appreciate it," he says to a husiness man who let him pass through a narrow bit of the pavement: and "Ere that's a fantastic laugh, do it again, go on, go on," he says to a gig-gly teenage girl, who duly ohliges by giggling uncontrollably.

That's lovely, that is," he says as he

walks on. "What a smashing laugh, eh?"

At the Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W1 5 Feb-16 Mar Bcoking: 0171-494 5048

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Knickerbox: cream chemise, £17.99 This viscose/cottun ribbed shift may not be practical as an undergarment but would be great for sleeping in. From Knickerbox hranches nationwide. Enquiries on 0171-284 1744

John Smedley: top, £21, boxer £27 Luxurious twosome in Sea Island cotton. Big knickers seem to be a key trend in underwear; these ones are ribbed at the waistband for an extra smooth look. From Simpsons of Piccadilly, London W1. or mail order un 01629 534 331

Muji: camisole three-pack £14.50, with matching high-cut briefs £9.50 Outstanding value from the Japanese shop that gives us useful, stylish basics. Many a girl can be seen dancing the night away in these vests. From Muji stores; enquirles: 0171-494 1197

Ruickerbox: black vest with lace trim £12.99, pants £9.99 Again these "hot pant" style knickers are very popular. They're also soft and durable. From hranches of Knickerbox

> Stylist: Charlie Harrington Photographer: Andrew Lamb



icbael Cripps hreatbed beavily on to the hrass knobs at the base of the large Victorian cast-iron bed with its ornate semicircular headboard. "This nne's not for sale," he declared.

Mr Cripps, who runs Once Upon a Time, bas some 400 antique brass and iron bedsteads in 4,000 sq ft of all farm buildings in the village of Ripley, Surrey. He treats them like an extended family. "I put a high price on my favourite beds in the hope that they won't sell," be said "That way, I gain the pleasure of viewing them daily for a few years."

One of his favourites is an allbrass monnlith, made in 1872 at the Birmingham factory of James Schoolhred and Co, retailers of Tottenham Court Road London-a company that eventually became showroom a year.

The problem is that many of the beds inside that we do want to sell and un which we have worked very antique metal bedstead and are prehard, often don't sell, while the unrenovated ones outside sell well," Mr Cripps said.

bnme. Customers like to select a really down-at-heel one and then see what we can do to bring it roaring back into life." Mr Cripps has devoted the last 18 years of his life to rescuing antique piles of rust and selling them for an average of £1.000-£1.200 for a fully-restored Victorian cast-iron model.

He is one of balf a dozen or so specialist restorers of Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian antique bedsteads. Companies like Once Upon a Time report steady sales over the past few years, with no more dips due to the recession than any other retailer might expect. However, restorers believe the

specimens lying out in the cold.
"It's rather like visiting a dog's

supply is drying up, meaning prices will inevitably rise and make bedsteads purchased now a good invest-Maples. Fully restored, the bed's ment for the future. "The majority price tag is £4.750. It has been in the of my customers don't look at it this way, however," Mr Cripps said. a divan with a headboard."

designs, so there is a huge variety if you know where to look. The quality of the originals is usually so high that they come up beautifully especially when they are taken back to the original metal and hurnished. By comparison, modern reproduc-

The heyday of manufacturing was around the onset of the Crimean War in 1854, when Florence Nightingale focused the eyes of the nation on health issues as never before, Metal bedsteads, considered more healthy than the traditional rosewood and mahogany versions, rapidly found their ways into hospitals and schools. Before long, the general mass of the population made the change."

tions are utterly feeble.

The other usual requirement from customers is that the bed should be "stretched". This means extending it from its likely 4ft 6ins "They are inften young people who have set their hearts on a genuine doing this is by inserting extra dechave set their hearts on a genuine nearly pieces within the additional iron or steel hars. It is a practice pared to save up for a couple of frowned upon in some sections of more often thrown away." years for something different from the trade because it means the bed is no longer authentic.

He explained that customers According to Mr Cripps, the beds would rather come and choose are virtually all different. "Nearly all only find one 5ft hed to every 200

ing beds helps to keep prices down and gives old beds a new life."

Most of the old bedsteads that end up in workshops come in via "runners" in the antique trade, who quite often bring them from Ireland. or from Spain, Purtugal and Marocco, where modern divan beds are slowly replacing the metal ones.

According to Jonathan Tebbs, who runs A Barn Full of Brass Beds in Lincolnshire, mure than 90 per cent of them were originally made in Birmingham.

By the 1870s, it is said 6,000 brass and iron bedsteads were being produced, yast numbers of which were exported," he said. "They were not only made for the well-to-do, with pearl inlays, faceted mirrors, scroll work and superior castings, hul also for the ordinary folk.

"In Victorian times, the bed was width to the Sft more acceptable to almost a status symbol, like cars are modern tastes. The usual means of regarded by some today. But the doing this is by inserting extra dec- simple ones were in many ways the most elegant, and are often rarer, as they were the models that were

While Mr Cripps either sells his heds in their original humished Tused to have misgivings, but we and lacquered hare metal form, or paints them black, Mr Tebhs spefrom the sad-looking unrestored manufacturers had their own or so 4ft 6ins or 4ft beds that come cialises in painting his beds in the

our way," said Mr Cripps. "Extend- range of National Trust colours mainly French grey, sugar-hag blue, Cork green, fox red and Sudbury yellow. Most of his beds are restored to arder, the customer coming to him to choose first.

Generally, my clients, who come from throughout the country, pre-fer this approach," he said. "I tell them I huy rust and I sell rumance."

> Once Upon a Time, The Green Ripley, Surrey (01483 211330). A Barn Full of Brass Beds, Abbey House, Eastfield Road, Louth, Lines (01507 603173). Manor Farm Antiques. Oxfordshire (01865 300303). Bed Bazaar, Framlingham Suffolk (01728 723756). The Antique Bedstead Company, Chelmsford (01245 471137). Morpheus, Elgin House Antiques. Tetbury (01666 504068). Seventh Heaven, Clwyd (01691 777622).

Reproduction brass and iron bedsteads available from: Enchanted House, St Blazey, Comwall (01726 812213). Deptich Designs Ltd. London (0181-687 0867) sell their reproduction metal bedsteads throughout the UK.



44.5

(43.5) (22.5)

bazaar

### Bestsellers: Top 10 at Lakeland Plastics

From a small company selling plastic boxes, Lakeland Plastics has evolved into a mail-order phenomenon. Much of its success is based on the fact that many of the ideas for new gadgets are supplied by its customers. One of these is the new mini mix, a tool for whisking one egg white; another is the nondrip honey spoon, which perches nn the jar rim. The success of the wonder whisks and Mermaid roasting tins is

explained by their starring roles on BBC2's Delia Smith's Winter Collection. Call 015394 88100 for a catalogue.

1 Mini mix£3.95
2 Honey spoon£2.95
3 Cast-iron veg shredder£23.95
4 Spice tower£16.95
5 Artificial azalea bush£9.95
6 Wonder whisk£2.95 (two)
7 Mermaid roasting tin£23.95
8 Dishwasher fragrance£2.35
9 Magic Glove£4.95
10 Mary Berry flour sifter£1.99

### **Good thing**

Heart apron, £9.95

Foody partners will probably appreciate this red-check heart apron on Valentines Day more than a giftwrapped box of rum truffles. It's made from 100 per cent cotton, is generously sized and reasonably priced. Other

Divertimenti presents for favourite cooks include heart-shaped cake tins (£6.95 a pair), china coeur à la crème moulds (£19.95) and a pretty Early American heart-pattern ceramic shorthread mould (£19.95). Add £3.95 p&p. Order a.s.a.p. (for 14 Feh) from the Divertimenti catalogue (0171-386 9911), nr try the shaps at 45-47 Wigmore Street, London W1 and 139 Fulham Road, SW3.

### Mad thing

Click phone,

You don't have a mobile phone but would like your friends to think you have. What do you dn? Turn to the Innovations catalogue and order this cunning home phone that looks like a

mubile". To use, pull out the dummy aerial, and flip open the mouthpiece. To close, push back the aerial, click shut and put down anywhere. The only drawback is the subtle giveaway of a curly flex, which even if it is six metres long ("to let you roam") won't fool anynne. From Innovations: 01793 514666.

### **Checkout** Oxfam

Oxfam, Queen's Road, Bristol (0117 929 4890)

What is it?: An Oxfam shop, but without the racks of lurex jumpers and outgrown tweed jackets that most people ship at Oxfam for. This shop is one of three Oxfam shops which stock only Oxfam's Fair Trade products - intended to benefit the people who actually make the products by giving them a fair price (the others are in Chester and Chichester).

Stock: Best sellers are the mure useful nr consumable items such as the delicinus Café Direct coffee, grown by Latin-American and African co-operatives, the Fair Trade chocolate, made in Switzerland hut from fairly traded beans and sugar, or the recycled Oxfam writing paper. Irritatingly, not all the goods are marked with information on where and how they're made.

Do buy: Bolivian dried bananas (£1.40 a pack), Café Direct coffee (£2.49 a jar), Indian doormat (£7.45), Guava jam from Burkina Faso (£1.65), laundry basket from the Philippines (£18.75)

Don't buy: The expensive knick-knacks that sell well at Christmas hut gather dust the rest of the year, ie. flowery hlue porcelain pigs from Thailand, carved wooden tiger masks

### collecting • antiques, galleries

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David Owen

0171 293 2330

Antiques Section please call Amy Beeton 0171 293 2028 or



### **AUCTIONS**

There are spates of bobbin faking. Horse bones are lathe-turned, carved, then

buried in manure to

Dre-war televisinns, highly collectable, are doubling in price every couple of sales at Phillips Bayswater. Fewer survive than Stradivarius violins. At one of Phillips's thrice-yearly "mechan-ical music" sales last September. a table-top HMV set made in 1936 - the first year of public broadcasting - fetched £2,875. In Tuesday's sale (12 noon) a 1936 Marconi 706 televisionradio, with a screen the size of a tennis hall and a walnut cabinet is estimated at £2,000-

£2,200. There are commission

bids in excess of that and it will probably fetch over £3,500. Phillips, with a virtual monopoly on the vintage telly market. gets the highest prices. The result is that artful collectors have been buying sets at Sotheby's and Christie's South Kensington for a song and reselling them for nearly three times as much at Phillips. After a 1936 floor-standing HMV had been sold for £990 at Christie's South Kensington last year, an uncannily similar set turned up at Phillips's May sale, fetching estimate of £2,500-£3,500 on a 1937 Marconi 702 with mirror lid, bought for £990 at Sotheby's last October. But the huyer prefers to hang on to it. Some post-war tellies are

going down in price. A 20in

white Keracolnur with classic glube shape (made in 1970. inspired by the 1969 moon landing) was worth £500 at auction two years ago when Michael Bennett-Levy's guidebook Historic Televisions ignited the telly-collecting craze. The specimen in this week's sale is estimated nt nnly £150-£250 because every serious collector now has one. Meanwhile, the supply of pre-war models has all but dried up. Phillips sold 15 in 1993, 10 in 1994 and unly nne last year. Will this week's be the first and last for 1996?

The nearest thing to a Keracolour in the homes of 18th and 19th century lacemakers was a 10in high water-filled spherical glass vase, back-lit by a glass oil lamp of about the same size, that focussed light £2,645. Phillips has given an unto their meticulous work.

Derby's wondrously illuminated paintings - but were not bright enough to prevent many lacemakers going blind. Two lace-makers lamps with hollow stem and glass globe are estimated at £100-£150 each in Phillips's sale of textiles, lace and period costume, Tuesday (11am). Only one or two a year crop up at auction. The sale has plenty of pencil-like turned bone and wood lace-making bobbins decorated with spangles at one end, many carved with names and mis-spelt lines such as "I long to be mared". Lots of 24 are estimated at £150-£200. From time to time, there are spates of bobbin faking in the antique world. Horse bones are lathe-turned, carved, then buried in manure to artificially age them. Phillips's Anne Marie Benson spots them because their incisions, made with modern tools, are too sharp, and because they lack signs of wear and the slightly glossy patina caused by perspiration.

They feature in Wright of

John Windsor



# Planet kitsch

The Sixties Space Age promised a world of silver suits and inflatable furniture. But it's only now that the high street can deliver. By Jonathan Glancey

pace is in danger of becoming a black hole, or a huhble-buhble, in the memory of the media. Having just lis-tened to Radio 4's Beam Me Up

Scotty, "a nostalgic zoom through Space Age pop culture". I find myself, if not stunned, fazed, and out of time.

Beam Mc Up Scotty tells mc (a child of the Sixties) that I was brought up in age when we all had inflatable plastic chairs, wore disposable, paper, underwear, and boarted in posable paper underwear, and boasted a Lava lamp in every room. Yet, for those of us who lacked central heating, fitted carpets and refrigerators (our first fridge came in 1967), such novelties were the stuff of dreams and of Tommy Robert's dreamy "Mr Freedom", shop-of-the-future in the King's Road. I bought my first Lava lamp last year.

I was clearly not a part of Radio 4's Space Age, but then few of us were. As children we waited impatiently for next week's Eagle to see Dan Dare ("pilot of the future") bat-tling with the Mekon. We thrilled to Soyuz and Saturn rocket launches taking Reds and Yanks with crew cuts and the Right Stuff towards the moon, yet the world we inhabited was more steam age than Space Age.

We knew about sputniks, looked forward to sherbert and rice-paper "flying saucers" on the walk back from Mass on Sunday, craved Lyon's Maid Zoom ice-lollies, could hum the tinny tune of "Telstar" by the Tornados, and wanted to be Daleks; yet the Comet was still a steam-hauled flyer from Euston to Manchester, and Evening Star the last steam locomotive built by British Railways (Swindon, 1960). A Constellation was one of the triple-finned American turbo-props that arched over the tree-tops. Mars was a bar of "thick, thick" chocolate (price: 6d), and Milky Way the sweet you could eat between meals (3d).

My first space rocket (6s IId) was launched with the aid of a catapult. On a good day it could penetrate the playgroundo-sphere, commencing its parachuteassisted descent to Earth at about 100ft. It was a lot less sophisticated than my Marnod SE2A steam engine, which, powered hy meths and water, could (when attached to the right cogs and eccentrics) polish a set of table knives within the hour, whilst

intoxicating guinea-pigs and terrifying cats. Equally, the veteran transformer that controlled my model trains was much more sophisticated than the miniature RAF Javelin, Huoter and Lightning fighters (as Space Age of the Sixties. advertised in Eagle) that, filled with noxious gas, rocketed across the garden so much faster (and more dangerously) than defunct

Airfix Lancasters stuffed with flaming. paraffin-soaked rags and catapulted from bedroom windows.

There was more fun to be bad from making walkie-talkies from two tin cans and a length of string than from a smug classmate's utterly wet and weedy Dan Dare 2way Space Radio. And, instead of watching Fireball XL5 or Lost in Space on the blackand-white telly, a much better way to tour the cosmos was to climb a tall tree, and, from its swaying cockpit, follow the vapour trails of military jets reaching for the stratosphere from nearby air bases.

Perhaps the best way of all was to snug gle under dogs and bedclothes on pipe-cracking nights, kitted-out with hot water bottle, torch and The Swift Book of Space Flight, and dream one's seven-year-old self

to Andromeda and galaxies beyond. Girls' (chiz chiz) dreams of space had little to do with disintegrator guns and know-ing the top speed of an X-15 rocket plane; girls dreamt of dressing up and pirouetting into Namia and Oz-like worlds, or variations on the mysterious island where Sandra, a kidnapped orphan, has been taken to train in a secret ballet school (a tale told weekly in

Teenage sisters brought the Space Age closer to home with giggly discussions turning on the "pbworr" factor of Apollo astronauts. Neil Armstrong's giant leap for mankind seemed rather less important to womankind (now students of "Cathy and Claire's Problem Page" in Juckie) than whether be was cuter than "Buzz" Aldrin.

By then they had developed a crush on Captain Kirk or Mr Spock (having ahandoned Napoleon Solo and Ilya Kuryakin). To be fair, the micro-mini-skirted Lieutenant Uhuru was beginning to exert a strange attraction on us boys (enuff said).

Girls were the final frontier for Space cadets, but, sufferin' satellites (as Dan Dare would have said), all that embarrassing stuff was acons in the future. Uotil then, space would remain the stuff of catapults, burnt fingers, electric shocks, scorching jets of superheated steam and starry yarns read under blankets. Today, the Sixties' Spage Age has caught up with the world of the Jupiter probe and Hubble space-camera: inflatable furniture, silver dresses, plastic hipsters, rocketstyle Lava lamps have only now landed in the high street, 30 years after the late, great

> "Beam Me Up Scotty", presented by John Peel: 10am R4, Friday 2 Feb



### A life in the shift of

Navin Patel owner of Raj's Newsagents in Ashford, Kent



Navin Patel, 40. and his father, bought t. newsagent/off-licence in 1971, having been e pelled from Uganda by Idi Amin. He is mu-ried and has two daughters. 12 and nine, at a six-year-old son. They live above the sho

"I get up at 5am. We are Hindus and ever one bas to have a bath and pray befo breakfast. I pray for about 15 minutes. N wife does half an bour, and my mosber; hour. Dad retired in August, and for the k two he's been raising money for the new Hi du temple in Neasden. It was Dad who fit saw the sbop advertised in Dalton's Wee by. This is a very good shop, he said. In fo or five years we will make our money back He was right. It's been a gold mine. I dive three cars. One is a Mercedes.

In the Eighties we bought a nursing home, too. My wife works there. Sometim she works until 4am and still geis up at 6a to cook for us. It's in our genes: work, wor work. I sometimes think Indian people a mad. I bave a boy who works for me - ! is a good boy, but he doesn't like workin Like some English people, he thinks if be worked a 40-bour week he's worked ve hard. I work about 100 hours a week.

"At 5.30am my bead boy arrives and v go into the garage and count out the pape for the paper rounds. The shop opens 6am. There are always people waiting.

"I bave hreakfast at 8am - two toast ar some Bombay mix. I eat Indian food, ncrisps and fizzy drinks like my children. was one of the first Indian men in Ashfor Sometimes people call us "Paki hastards but not often. Bricks bave been chucke through the window. But it's not persona We have sbutters now.

"At 8,15am the school kids come in ar spend their dinner money. The biggest pro lem with them is fags. We've clampe down a lot because I've been told off by the police and the school. My children go to private school. I want them to do better th: me. One daughter wants to be a doctor, ti other a skin specialist. Traditionally the sc takes over the father's business, but I wa him to do something better. My wife wor let them slack about. She says: Look ho hard your father works. I expect you to c the same?

"From 9am I run the post office and the other staff run the shop. I bave lunch 1pm - vegetables and rice - and am bac in the post office at 1.30pm. I break at 5p so we can eat our main meal together, at then work until the shop sbuts at 7.30pr In the evenings I do my paper work. I' never in bed hefore 11pm. My only bres is on Sunday afternoons when I play wi the children. We go ice skating or pla

"I must be getting old because I find tl long hours hard. We don't need any mo money and I am thinking that if I had a ma ager, I could take life easy. But what elcould I do? This is all I know."

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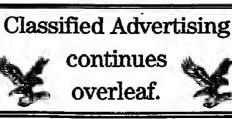


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# Meet the family

The man behind the Rock Family Trees is back. This time he's charting 40 years of Manchester United. By James Rampton

h no," I hear you say, "not another Manchester United merchandising opportunity. I've already got the Ryan Giggs duvet-cover and the memoirs of the Stretford End turnstile operator. What do I need a Manchester United Family Tree for?" The answer is: because it is a fascinating, phenomenally painstaking piece of work, detailed enough to satisfy the most stats-obsessed fan.

The two Family Tree posters, covering the periods 1955-75 and 1975-95, contain 8,000 words apiece – enough to fill a slim volume. The Trees give a season-byseason breakdown of comings and goings, and the team's form, in a spaghetti-junction inter-spersed with wodges of scrupu-lously near text. They are the sporting cousin of Pete Framc's Rock Family Trees which have charted the sometimes Byzantine interconnections between rock bands over the past 25 years.

The information for the United Family Tree was largely

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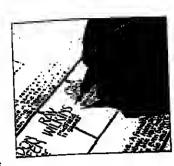
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supplied by Jim White, (featurewriter on this paper and author of Are You Watching, Liverpool?) and checked by the Newsnight reporter and Jeffrey Archer hiographer. Michael Crick ("the world's greatest expert on United", according to Frame). Frame then spent three months

on top of an eight-by-four plywood drawing-board. In his words, he was "perched like a gnome on a cushion, surrounded by scraps of paper, reference-books, dictionaries, pens. rulers and bottles of liquid paper. Only 1 know where everything is. When I die, someone's going to have a hell of a job sorting everything out."

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Now 53, Frame first got the idea for Family Trees when at the end of the Sixties he dropped out of his respectable job as a buildings surveyor for the Prudential and founded his own underground rock magazine called ZigZag. "In 1972 I'd done a long interview with Al Cooper, who had started Blood, Sweat and Tears," he recalls, speaking from his 16th-century thatched cottage near Ayleshury. "1 was trying to explain in an article how he had moved from one hand to another, when at that moment it dawned on me that if I drew it out in a family tree it would be so much clearer." A cult was born, and over the next quarter-century hundreds of Frame's works of art appeared in Sounds, NME, Melody Maker

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and Rolling Stone. They culmi-nated last year in a BBC2 series Rock Family Trees.
It may be painstaking, but the Pamily Tree is not an anoraky thing, says Frame. "Usually the people who say that are those who haven't read it. I know train-



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spotters and, believe me. I'm not in their hall-game. It's got a lot of information, but if you actually read it, it's written with a lightness. It's amusing and full of anecdotes."

It is true that in among the morass of facts, many gems shine out. Take the Family Tree's comments on United's signing of Bryan Robson in 1981: "For the

next 12 years he never put a foot wrong for United, the only mistake he made was the curly perm he sported the day he signed." Frame's next projects are Fam-

ily Trees of the England team since 1966 and his beloved Luton Town FC-"the soot in the atmosphere always created a fog at Luton, but they were my very first heroes". Frame has thought about turn-

ing himself into a (thatched) cottage industry. "I'd love to have a team of monks working to my instruction while I sit and have a joint," he says. "But it doesn't work like that, because my style is so idiosyncratic. If I had a team replicating my work, it d become too train-spotterish. I interviewed Leonard Cohen once and he told me he's taken some territory

tain it. I feel the same.

The Manchester United Family Trees are available from BDP, 50 Margaret St, London W1N 8LS. Each poster (1955-75 or 1975-95) costs £10 plus £1.50 p&p. Credit card orders on 0171-636 1665.

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# How a modest Italian ornament became a priceless masterpiece by Michelangelo

This week, if you helieve Dr ling of the lion's paw... surely this tant question, as Dr Penny has the world recovered a great treasure. The circumstances were delightfully cinematic. For years the gloomy lubby of a Fifth Avenue mansion has contained a small stone sculpture of a cupid with a quiver in the shape of a lion's paw. The object was in plain view but so familiar that it was, effectively, invisible. One day, though, as Dr Brandt was passing, the lubby had been illuminated for some special event. Peering through the glass, she saw the sculpture brightly lit for the first time. One can imagine the scene as an Annunciation, a beam of golden light bearing down on the sacred object. Dr Brandt's heart beat a little faster. The contrapposto of the back, the tightness of the curls, the model-

Kathleen Weil-Garris Brandt, was no humble piece of garden statuary. After further research, and with much trepidation, she advanced the theory that the work was actually by Michelangelo. New York had lost a modest Italian ornament and gained a priceless work of art - a brilliant trade by anyhody's standards.

Dr Brandt has found support among other art historians. Our own Dr Nicholas Penny, of the National Gallery, weighed in un her side, telling the New York Times that "The more one looks at it. the more it grows on one, not only as a remarkable work of art hut something that makes sense as a work of Michelangelo."

What exactly does it mean, though, to "make sense" as a work of Michelangelo? It is an impor-

good reason to know, because the ticity of a Michelangelo came much closer to home. It arose over the reattribution - the promo-tion, in effect - of the National Gallery's Entombinent of Christ. The case against was put by an enraged Professor James Beck: "To make the Entombnient a Michelangelo", he said, "dimin-ishes the creativity of Michelangelo. It means placing a third-rate work at his doorstep. That is a violation of his integrity." (To have 20th-century academics presume what your integrity consists of might he considered a larger vio-

lation still, but let that pass.) Integrity is important to us, and has been for centuries. The quality has another name, too, and one



rather mure pertinent to these questions of artistic provenance at a paradox, to its larger moral sense, authenticity (as applied to people or their behaviour) contains some notion of intransigence or resistance to the smoothing impulse of society. We detect authenticity in humans by those features in them which don't conform to pattern. In art history, however, quite the opposite is

sense" depends on an essentially artistic floish if it cannot come up with incontrovertible paperwork. what's more, a signature which has several more signatures to vouch for its authenticity), we rely on something more like plausibility or

coherence. In Sincerin and Authenticity, Lionel Trilling wrote that "the work of art is itself authentic by reason of its entire self-definition: it is understood to exist wholly by the laws of its own being, which include the right to emhody painful, ignoble, or socially unac-ceptable subject-matters. Similarly the artist seeks his personal authenticity in his entire autonomousness." This may not be how Michelangelo thought of the true. Authenticity that "makes matter (Trilling is speaking specif-

mind), hut it is, to some degree, how we now think of Michelangelo, in his isolated and heroic creativity. And as he isn't around to clarify exactly what it is to be authentically Michelangelesque. we must do the work for him. Dead people don't have the luxury of "autonomousness".

The result can be decidedly odd the careful creation of a new being, incapable of error or even the labour of false starts. It has happened to other artists, too. In the past 90 years, we have lost more than half the Remhrandts that were in existence at the beginning of the century; oot through some inconceivable carelessness on the part of curators, hut because the Rembrandt Research Project has doggedly hacked away

ically of a 19-century habit of at what it coosiders to be false attributions. They have relied mostly on stylistic considerations (just as Dr Brandt did with her Michelangelo), effectively removing "lesser works" from the corpus. As they proceed, Rembrandt becomes a greater and greater artist and, in some respects at least, less and less humanly interesting.

Clearly the procedure works both ways - if a work of art is elevated to the corpus, it is honourbound to live up to its new estate. This sometimes takes diligence, as with the world's fresh scrutiny of the New York cupid. "The more one looks at it." Dr Penny said, "the more it grows on one." But would anyone have looked so hard or seen so much if that new and glamorous authenticity had never

# Charmer, charlatan, patron, genius

Diaghilev was the century's most flamboyant fixer and artistic visionary. A major new exhibition tries to get the measure of the man. By Paul Taylor

ergei Pavlovich Diaghilev (1872-1929) had a badger-stripe of white in his dark hair, giving him a look of Susan Sontag and Bride of Frankenstein. In the por-traits of the great Russian impresario that you find dotted around "Diaghilev: Creator of the Ballets Russes" at the Barbican, this feature (which earnt him the nickname "Chinchilla") is somewhat easier to spot than evidence of the formidable charm to which his contemporaries made ritual reference.

"He could charm a dead man to life," wrote the English showman, CB Cochran, and that can't be much of an exaggeration, given the range of Diaghilev agnetism and persuasive e founded the Ballets powers. By the tlm Russes in 1911, he A already organised the 1906 exhibition of Rus art at the Paris Salon d'Automne, the 190\ vacerts of Russian music (which introdu) Chaliapin, Rachmaninov and Rimsky-K kov to Paris audiences), and treated the to the glories of Boris Godunov. In the two secons of 1909 and 1910 he had gone on - despite the curious fact that he was initially no enthusiast of the form - to make ballet the vehicle for his vision of the Gesamtkunstwerk, a synthesis of music, painting and movement in the totally integrated work of art. In *Petrushka* (1910), the dance drama about the puppet with human feelings, he had supervised the supreme example of what he was aiming for. The circle of talent with which he had surrounded himself was already such a rollcall of the rarefied that any future film version of his life would be bound to run into acute dialogue difficulties: "Could you just hold on a sec, Benois, old chap, I've got Stravinsky on the other line. Apparently, Nijinsky's throwing a wobbly. No, I said Nij-insky, not Strav. Well, bang goes brunch with Proust."

There's a caricature by Pavel Shcherbov which shows Diaghilev on a stool in homely skirt and blouse literally milking Princess Tenisheva, his World of Art sponsor, who is represented as a cow. To finance his projects, the impresario was continually forced to make overtures to wealthy, titled types. Diaghilev's seasons tended to be critical smashes but financial failures. The Firebird was no Starlight Express, a gleaming example of that process in reverse.

The point about the cartoon, though, is that it's a rare instance of Diaghilev, the consummate operator, depicted in activity. The vast bulk of the images here - including the famous Leon Bakst portrait of him with his old nanny in the undergarments in cultural history, since it led background - give you scant inkling of the man's drive and dynamism. They recall, rather, Osbert Sitwell's marvellous description of him in Great Morning: "When he was preoccupied, his massive head, with a nose of the flat, not aquiline, Russian type, had something of a Velasquez dwarf's air of solemn pathos and listless fatality."

But what of the theatre he masterminded? Does the energy of that come across? It would indeed be an ironic fate for productions that strove to bring the arts into a vital synthesis, if, in separating out their elements, an exhibition were to let the life leak away. The current show has tried to guard against this by employing the designer. Paul Dart, to throw a theatrical atmosphere round the exhibits. This works best in the extraordinary installation on the lower level where - in an effect that is like looking down a long, magical tunnel of fairy-tale grottoes - a succession of Bakst and Benois stage designs (to Cleopatre, Petrushka, Scheherezade etc) open out on to each other, pulling you in to examine the relevant objects (costumes, posters, props, statuary) housed in the spaces between. With their "oriental" subject matter, exotic decor and revolutionary palette of overwhelmingly rich, sensual shades, these designs would make a stage buzz with vibrancy before a dancer stepped anywhere near it.

Compared to the drama of the designs – notably Bakst's costume-design paintings which demonstrate his phenomenal knack of presenting dress as the intoxicated extension of emotion rather than as just so much coloured fabric - the actual costumes in their glass cases seem a little faded and inert. Not that there is any music for them to come alive to, since, although these ballets boast scores by Stravinsky, Debussy. Ravel, Rimsky-Korsakov et al, a decision has been taken that the exhibition is

best perambulated in silence. There's a puzzling omission among the costumes. Nijinsky appeared at the Imperial Theatre in the tightest tights anyone had ever seen [in fact, an athletic support padded with handkerchiefs and little else]," remarked Stravinsky of the dancer's 1911 performance as Albrecht in Giselle, where he refused to appear before the audience in the discreet. Renais-sance-style outfit Benois had designed. You could argue that the bandage-like substitute he insisted on sporting is one of the more pivotal



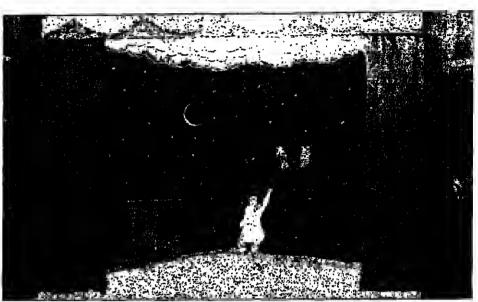
to Nijinsky's dismissal from the Imperial Theatre and to the creation of the Ballets Russes. Diaghilev, who had hitherto merely borrowed Russian artists for his Paris seasons, now exploited the situation to found his own independent company and to bind his lover Nijinsky ever closer to him. More than a storm in a truss, then, and I think that, assuming it hasn't been pawed to bits, we could have been granted a gawp at this historic object.

The cut-off point for the exhibition is the out-hreak of the First World War, with Diaghilev and his troupe stranded away from their homeland and scattered in Europe and the US. Ahead of the impresario lay a further 15 years of achievement and the decision to look to the European avant-garde (notably the Cuhism of Picasso) rather than back to Russia for design inspiration. But renewed interest in Diaghilev in his post-Communist homeland has meant that pre-Revolutionary items can now be brought over for the first time, and the exhibition is keen to emphasise the enduring Russian influences on his art up to that date.

The value of the early sections is that they establish a sense of the culture from which Diaghilev sprang, introducing you to such notable forerunners of the impresario as Savva Mamontov (1841-1918), a wealthy industrialist and natron who founded an arts colony on the Abramtsevo estate, a successful ceramics workshop and a loss-making but highly esteemed private opera company in Moscow. While the scenic department of the Imperial Theatre churned out standard-issue glades, lakes and palaces, Mamontov's company saw design as a painterly challenge and an opportunity to revitalise oational culture. His was an example, you feel, not wasted on Diaghilev.

It's to be hoped that when the promised exhibition of the remaining years is mounted, it will be as accommodating to the complicated legacy of Diaghilev, whose company promptly folded on his death in 1929, as this show has been to what shaped him and to the St Petersburg intellectual circles in which he made his first impact. "I am, first, a great charlatan, though with dash," he had written to his stepmother in 1895, "second, a great charmer, third, cheeky, fourth, a person with a lot of logic and few principles, and fifth, someone afflicted, it seems, with a complete absence of taleot. I think I've found my true vocation: to be a patron of the arts. For that I have everything I need except the money. Mais ça viendra ... "He could have added that, sixth, be was clairvoyant.

> 'Diaghilev: Creator of the Ballets Russes' is at the Barbican Centre, London EC2 (0171-638 8891) to 14 April





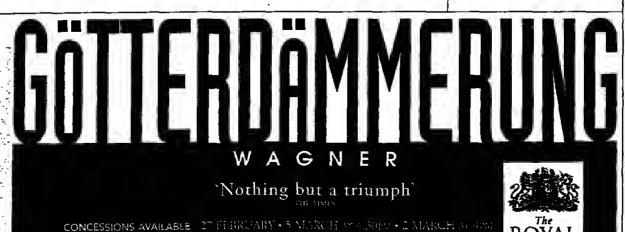


Clockwise from left: 'Portrait of Diaghiles with his nanny' by Leon Bakst (State Russian Museum, St Petersburg); Alexaodre Benois' set design for 'Petrushka', 1911 Museum, Moscow); and Bakst's costume designs for the Golden Negro (right) and an Odalisque (left) in 'Schéhérazade', 1910 (Private collection)



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### arts reviews

### **TELEVISION** Paul Merton in... (ITV)

Jasper Rees propounds the novel theory that comedy is, in fact, the new opera

n Dead Funny, Terry Johnson's recent West End bit, fuur bores huld a wake for Benny Hill. The theory proposed by the play, and implied in the title, is that comedy cannot survive resuscitation. On the principle that an old joke is any joke told mure than unce, Johnson derides the anorak instinct to dig up classic sketches and parade them anew. It's in accordance with this theory that modern comedy has come to be known as the new rock'n'roll, sending forth brattish new stars and exciting trend-spotting arts pages to increase its quota uf column inches.

Now Paul Menon in Galton and Simpson's ... has come along to test this theory. The project, in which Mertun plays the parts originally written for Tony Hancock, proposes comedy as the new opera, with a fixed repertoire of classic libretti and arias.

Merton has already given the BBC his idiosyneratic PhD on vintage comedy, so this would appear to be the next logical step: a archeological dig for yesteryear's laughs, with Merton as chief shoveller. He is both well and ill equipped for the task. He knows the material hackwards, but sometimes he might get more laughs if he said it backwards. Despite positioning himself as a keeper of the flame, he's also television's most accomplished improv comedian. Never very good at making other people's lines his own,

almost all his best work is done without a script.

In other words, his generous instincts are not in doubt, but his ability to act is. He has a measure of Hamanaka and the same of the sa sure of Hancock's uppity menace but, with a volume control that goes no lower than nine, none of his pathos. It could easily be claimed that this is irrelevant, but if comedy even by writers as hrilliant as Ray Galton and Alan Simpson is to have a shelf life, it needs to crase the memory of its premiere. Because he died before the days when every programme was kept for posterity, there is a bit of ease to be made for modernising Hancock. In principle, though, it looks a heretical undertaking.

The first Hulf Hour for revival was Twelve Angry Men. in which Merton played the chief foreman who tries to persuade the jury of a plainly guilty criminal's innocence. The script itself is still in goodish nick ("Does Magna Carta mean anything to you? Did she die in vain?"), and the professional stereotypes un the fringes have nut appreciably aged in 30 years. The unly regrettable sections have heen inserted tu give it an updating tweak. References to Rumpole and public-utility fatcats are barmless enough, but the OJ Simpson joke was there simply for texture; an equivalently limp line wouldn't have sullied the text first time round.

Dead Funny, incidentally, quotes the last lines Galton and Simpson ever wrote for Hancock, in which he moans that after he's gone all he can expect is "a few daffodils in a jumjar". This venture will make his memory ever fonder. As fur Galton and Simpson, it makes them the butt of

### **THEATRE** Slaughter City, RSC Pit, London

Naomi Wallace's blood-stained account of American industrial relations offers large dollops of symbolism, but no slice of life. By Paul Taylor



Cod's co-workers, Brandon (Alexis Daniel) and Reach (Lisa Gaye Dixon), all victims of the Sansage Man

Jou can't accuse Naomi Wallace of malingering in the one milieu. Her last couple of plays, for example, have transported us on Gulf War flashhacks (In the Heart of America) and to a hoarded-up London house during the Great Plague of 1665 (the excellent One Flea Spare). Slaughter City, now premiered in Ron Daniels's Pit production, deposits us in a US abattoir, designed to offer a symbolic microcosm of the pernicious relations between capital and labour. The set is as bloody as a butcher's apron. Carousels of realistic-looking carcasses swing by on hooks. Innards are rummaged out. Gristle is sliced from bone. These must have been testing times for any herbivores in the RSC's scenic and props department.

But though the setting uf ber plays may be varied, a strain of repetitiveness can now be detected. In In the Heart of America, the confused ghost of a Vietnamese woman searched for the murderer of her three-year-old daughter in a world where, after US action in Panama, Grenada and Operation Desert Storm, parallel postmortems were taking place. The implication, highly tendentious, was that all American wars are, at some level, the same: a repeat of the My Lai massacre.

Slaughter City applies that formula to the history of injustice, negligence and disaster in the field of American industrial relations. Here, the perplexed figure who wanders in from the past so as to point up the debatable theme of endless recurrence is Cod (a signally intense Otwen Foucre). Her mother, a turn of the century textile worker, had had to jump to her death from a fire but

managed to save Cod, still in the womb, by making a last-minute

pact with the Sausage Man (Robert Langdon Lloyd). With his grinder turning disgusting refuse into profit, this figure emblematises capital, but be evidently has supernatural powers. The price of saving the child's life is that she become his "spark", to be sent wherever he chooses for ever. He seems to revel in Cod's resistance to him, "the labourer against my system! It's glorious, it's heroic. And we have all the time in the world..." To him, it's a game he thinks he can't lose; to her, it's like a recurring nightmare as, in male disguise, she's taken to be a witness-participant in one industrial horror after another.

Slaughter City ends with her breaking the cycle and taking effective action in the here and now. You may wonder, though, whether that inspirational close compensates for the drawbacks of giving the piece a cumbersome, far-fetched and confusing mythic element that raises more doubts than it resolves. Cod's co-workers are splendidly played by Lisa Gaye Dixon, Sophie Stanton and Alexis Daniel and there is, at times, despite an overdosing on meat metaphors, a hard-edged particularity in the writng. I'd have preferred to find out more about their lives instead of being shown the pattern of which they are allegedly part. And that pattern is simplistic. The boss (Linal Haft) has a pet which is the single last surviving snail of its kind. I bet you can't guess what happens to it and him. Well, talk about asking for it.

Barbican, London EC2. Booking: 0171-638 8891, In rep

### CLASSICAL Emerson Quartet / Barbican

They brought Bartok to a boil last year, but Beethoven fell flat. By Robert Cowan

Poised beneath a warmly coloured backdrop, the Emerson Quartet made piquant music of Beethoven's D major String Quartet, Op 18 No 3. It was a taut affair, alert to every modulation, consistently incisive and elegantly articulated. Furthermore, the Quartet's instruments enhanced the effect, though Philip Setzer's Lupot sounded rather brighter in tone than Eugene Drucker's Stradivarius. Setzer led the first half, swapping to second fiddle after the interval (ie, for the first "Razumovsky" Quartet) although if any one member warranted special praise, it was cellist David Finckel, a strong player with a full, vibrant tone beautifully sustained. Violist Lawrence Dutton was the most visibly demonstrative of the four. swaying to the rhythm of the phrase, while Drucker kept his eyes firmly on the music.

Nothing seemed left to chance, a wise decision given that tempos were generally swift, even a mite breathless. Beethoven marked his slow movement Andante con moto, meaning "don't dawdle". The Emersons took due note, but switching to their new Deutsche Grammophon CD of the piece - recorded two years ago hut only just released - revealed a level of repose lacking from Wednesday's performance. The Scherzo. too, seemed rushed and, again, comparisons with the recording suggest impatience on stage. The F major Quartet is Op 18's strongest component and features an anguished slow movement that was inspired, we're told, by the burial-vault scene from Romeo and Juliet. It's marked "Adagio affettuoso e appassionato" but although the Emersons brought great visceral excitement to the music's more urgent episodes, there was no sense of danger, no necessary risk-taking: it was all too far from the edge. Likewise in the first "Razumovsky" Quartet where the hilarious Scherzo spins a dazzling sequence of musical one-liners and the Adagio cries its soulful confession. On one occasion, Drucker almost broke the barriers of propriety (that was during the latter half of the slow movement), but elsewhere I sensed the same predictable story of earnestness, accuracy and applied charm.

It seems palpably unfair to criticise playing that, if taken at face value, bas so much to offer - certainly in terms of polish, virtuosity and finesse. The Emersons are fine musicians: they have impeccable taste; they phrase intelligently and they make a beautiful sound. And yet, somehow, their Beethoven never caught fire, at least not on this first lap of their complete cycle. I could hardly believe that here was the group that brought Bartok to the boil last summer (QEH). Perhaps Beethoven poses them a more personal challenge; perhaps they need to cast off the formalities of stage performance and ease into private dialogue where, away from the publie's gaze, they can "do the Beethovenian thing" without any inhibitions. But, of course, it's early days yet and they could quite easily loosen up for the rest of the series.



## I'll tell you the best thing about Victorian satire - no subtlety'

Il tell you, "says Samuel Alderton, "what isn't funny," "What?" I ask, "Paul Merton." he replies, "He's not funny. Neither is Monty Python. the Young Ones, and those so-called alternative comedians like Ben Elton and that bloody stupid Alexei Sayle. They aren't funny. It's all 'Thatcher' this, shout shout," "Not at all funny, no no," adds Samuel's wife, Melissa. "Shouting isn't funny. Yelling isn't amusing." "Out of all the con-Samuel, sternly, "I'll tell you who the only funny ones are," "Who?" I ask, "The Goons," replies Samuel, "Now "Listen to this," he says, "Listen to this "The Goons," replies Samuel, "Now that's funny," "Yes," laughs Melissa,

KEY

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DEADLY

"Ying Tung Yiddle I Po ... Ha ba ha!" Samuel and Melissa Aiderton are the fuunder members of LOVS -"Lovers of Victorian Satire" - a small group of like-minded people dedi-cated to bringing the joys of "this mar-vellous, marvellous, marvelluus old art" back to the people. They perform their favourite songs and sketches at schools and festivals, and organise evenings in which they all sit around and laugh and shake their heads in temporary comedians," concludes wonder. Which is exactly what 25 of us

... it's devastating.'

He puts on a very old 78 recording of a man performing a song entitled "In Trinity Church I Met Me Doom", and we sit in silent awe. "In Trinity Church I Met Me Doorn..." sings the man. "A Ra Ra A Ra A De De Deee," sing Samuel and Melissa in unison. "The missus hit me with a broom" sings the man. "A Ra Ra A Ra A De De Deee," sing Samuel and Melissa. "You see," says Samuel. "They didn't need to shout. They didn't need nastiness."

"He's bein' a little nasty to his wife." I offer tentatively. "It's a joke," bellows Samuel. "It's all clean fun. Bloody political correctness. It's not like he's hitting her with a broom, is it now?"

"It's not wife hattery," agrees Melissa. "I'll tell you the best thing about Victorian satire." "What?" I ask. "No subtlety," she replies. "No nuances. Nowadays it's all nuances and sub-texts. Bloody ridiculnus. What are they?

Funnymen, or university lecturers? The high-spot of tonight's party is listening to Samuel and Melissa performing a sketch entitled "The Gendarme". "Excuse me," says Samuel. "Oui?" says Melissa. "My lady wife," says Samuel, "fell out of bed last night." "Ooh la la!" says Melissa. "She's so fat," concludes Samuel, "that she rolled herself back to sleep."

There is a buge laugh.

"That joke can be traced back to 1895," whispers an aged man called Boh. "One hundred whole years ago." He gives his wife a wink. "Before even you were born. You see, our Victorian satire," says Samuel. "Who?" I ask. "Thatcher," says Samuel. "You sound like an alternative comeforefathers know how to let their hair." forefathers knew how to let their hair

down, contrary to popular belief."
"I've got a question," I say. "Why is he telling a policeman that his wife fell out of bed? You'd be done for wasting police time if you did that now. You'd probably be locked in a padded cell."
"Well, that's the difference isn't it?" says Melissa. "The policemen were a

lot more friendly in those days. Life was

a lot more friendly."
"I'll tell you who I blame for the

dian," I say.
"No, seriously," says Samuel. "When Thatcher said we should all get back to Victorian values, she was talking about

discipline and silence during meals. That sort of thing. It gave the Victorians such a bad name. You know what Victorian values really were?" "What?" I say.

"Having a bloody good laugh," says Samuel. "That's what. Having a bloody

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biography of post-war Britain.
Thomas Suscliffe found it "an uneven introduction lbut the bet may be winnable yet." "Utterly enthralling... beautifully acted and smoothly directed", cheered the Mail. "Undentably graphing said Time Out. "Walface and Gromit without the humour, opined the independent on Standay. "The acting was uniformly excellent," enthread the Mail. on Sunday. Excellent, declared the Sunday 9pm BBC2, Mondays



Chuzzlewit James, looks like it will pay off.
The Gelendic superstar played a four night four with an impercably chie support act, the Brodsky String Guartet playing Shostakovich and friends.

Nick Coleman described it as "brilliant" and was Nick Coleman described it as brilliant, and was tremendously impressed by her range and startling passion. "What the show missed in tratitional rabble-rousing dynamics was more than made up for by Bjork's Inventive and energetic style of projection," applicated the Times. "Her reservoirs of imagination set her apart from every

other star," marvelled the Guardian.





Adam Mars-Jones was lukewarm. Even the action

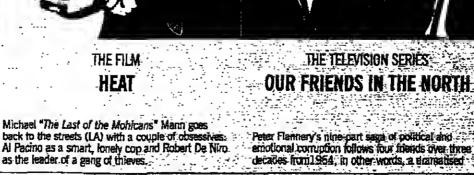
huan wars-roles was integram, Ever the ection set-piece "doesn't make the pulse race". "Our old Hollywood friend, Zen Buddyism... how little human drama there is," goorned the Financial Times. "Heat applies the heat," approved the Times. "The most spectacular B-movie ever made", proclaimed the Guardian. "The best American film of the '90s. That good," declared Time Out.



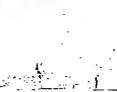












# This is how it used to work: you wrote a book, people read it, it made you a star. Not any more. Writers are making their reputations before they've published a word

By Jason Cowley

the critical reception of a book? This March, you are sure to hear, sooner or later, of The Debt to Pleasure, by John Lanchester, easily the most hyped novelistic debut since Vikram Seih's .4 Suitable Boy. Lanchester's book has been pre-emptively applauded as "the publishing event of the year" and as "the most brilliant and original across the most brilliant across the mo the most brillians and original novel to appear by an English author for a decade" - not by the critics, but by his own publishers, Picador. In case, that is too muted for the book-reading audience, Picador has also predicted that the novel will take its place alongside the "great international bestsellers: Patrick Susskind's Perfume, Donna Tartt's The Secret History and Peter Hoeg's Miss Smilla's Feeling for

cookbook, The Debt to Pleasure is narrated by the fastidiously fatigued Tarquin Winot, gourmet, aesthete and murderer. There is a sumptuousness and Nahokovion hauteur about the prose, but also an oppressive knowingness of tone that doesn't always ring true. Still, the hype appears to he working. The Deht has been sold to publishers in Canada, Germany, Italy, Spain, Japan, Sweden and Brazil, Lanchester has become a rich man without selling a single copy of his book. And one could happily write off its success as no more than cunning marketing were it not for a strange phenomenon.

At the Frankfurt Book Fair last October, Picador held a party at which Lanchester congenially received his admirers - Japanese translators, Italian scouts, Polish scribblers. After the eveot, the fair resounded to the sound of his name - but people seemed to be speaking about the book exclusively in the terms prescribed by the publisher. Comparisons were being made – as though they were original thoughts the year. And back in England, the same phrase began to appear in previews of spring fiction...

pretations of one of its titles. It's quite

postmodernist.

morning and found myself famnus." after the first two cantos of his sprawi-ing narrative poem "Childe Harold's ers are so skilled and assiduous at creating an aura of pre-publication expectation that writers can achieve a kind of fame long before they have

published anything at all. Jon Riley, who hought The Debt for Picador, concedes that there's a danger that the hype may, in the end, work against it. "I think people are rightly you believe in, you must try to gct suspicious of publishers pre-publication celebrations," he says. "But you ally tell your sales and marketing only get the chance every so often in Structured as a kind of elaborate your life to make the claims we've been making about John's novel and get away with it. I'm encouraged that other people are using the same kind of language as we are about the book, even though they don't have a vested

Tim Adams, literary editor of a national Sunday paper, says, "Although I feel we are always going to he susceptible to hype. I am suspicious when a publisher starts to talk up a book. They are under pressure to produce one oew sensation each season, and, of course, you can't expect to do that. Publishers also seem obsessed with finding new young writers - the next hig thing - when I think they would be better served investing in some of their more established names." What does he think of the Lanchester? "Oh, it fully justifies the hype: it's an excep-

Another way in which publishers can guarantee interest in a first novel is to pay a lot of money for it. Evelyn Waugh gave this advice to an aspiring writer: Museum, for which we were lucky "Reviews matter very little in the case eoough to get a fabulous quote from with Donna Tartt and Patrick Suskind. of a novel. The important thing is to More than once I heard the hook make people talk about it. You can do described as "the publishing event of this by forcing your way into the newspapers in some other way. "Iwo young writers who have broken free from the ews of spring fiction... ghetto of the book pages are Martin What it seems Picador has done with Bedford and James Hawes, both of its cleverly calculated campaign is whom made front page news when nothing less than try to control the their novels Acts of Revision and A terms on which the novel will be White Merc with Firs were bought by assessed, to pre-arrange future inter- Transworld and Cape for large bucks. A lecturer at Swansea University,

an a publisher predetermine a concept, the publisher-as-critic: very Hawes has written an excitable, heetic debut about an indolent graduate who Hype in the mid-Nineties is a matter of pre-arranging fame. In 1812.

Lord Byron could write, "I awoke one

As with the Lanchester, the book is receiving the full treatment. "I photocopied White Mere 25 times as soon as I'd bought the book," says publisher Dan Franklin, "because you have to get everybody in the office saying it's great.

even editors from other divisions." The reason for this excitement is mostly money. "If a publisher has paid a lot for a book, then he is going to promote it," says the agent and publisher Christopher Sinclair-Stevenson, "It's so difficult to get anyone interested in a first novel that, when you publish one departments that you've bought a mas-terpiece, they eventually believe you." Ursula MacKenzie, publishing direc-

tor of Transworld, points out that the only way to create interest and expectation in novels for which the promotional budget is small is to decorate the jacket with encomia. Among the most vigorously puffed debuts of the moment are Catherine Fox's Angels and Men, over which fellow Penguin authors Barbara Trapido and Pat Barker expressed great enthusiasm; and David Huggins's The Big Kiss, on whose jacket the names of Will Self, Stephen Frears and Stephen Fry are daubed like slogans. That Self and Fry are also among the most prolific puffers in town may not diminish the force of their recommendations.

MacKenzie says: "We often send out our first novels to writers and celebrities to see if we can get some good quotes. Sometimes this is the only way you can help a first novelist. We did this with Kate Atkinsoo's [Whitbreadwinning] Behind the Scenes at the Margaret Forster which we put on the front of the proof. We were also lucky that Kate's novel has a breadth of appeal; I don't think you can same about the Lanchester."

As for Lanchester himself, he is acutely conscious of the hurdeo of expectation that's been placed on him. "It's like I've been dragged slowly up to the top of a roller coaster." he told the Bookseller in a recent interview, "and now I'm about to be let go ... "



# Old Nick and the spin doctors

Was the Devil the child of anti-Jewish propaganda? Jan Morris raises an agnostic eyebrow

the fire reading interesting theological speculations in the company of a learned. articulate, sometimes repetitive but never boring American academic, this may well be the book for you. If, on the other hand, you are pining for fresb insights into the roots and loyalties of evil; skip it. Like most theologians, of all religions, Professor Pagels is either unable or reluctant to differentiate between the real and the figurative, so that she leaves us at the end little the wiser about what or who Satan was originally supposed to be -being, image, fact or symbol?

I write not just as an outand-out agnostic but as a despiser of theological and philosophical gobbledygook. Take this banai truism, so dear to Pagels that she prints it twice: "The worldview of most peoples consists essentially of two pairs of binary oppositions: human/not human and we/they". Big deal. It would be an odd world view indeed that confused one's grandmother with a centipede and could not tell the difference between ourselves and everyone else; but the thought chimes happily with the currently fashionable concept

of "The Other". Pagels's catchy title is misleading. The Origin of Satan is

f you feel like a few hours by journals on varied theological subjects, now revised to make them "more generally accessible" for you and me, and it returns only intermittently, when its author remembers (or perhaps when its editor reminds her), to the explicit theme of Satanic origins. It concerns itself almost entirely with the Judaeo-Christian tradition, virtually ignoring peo-ple like the Zoroastrians

(from whose alarming demon Ahriman, the encyclopaedia tells me, the Jews probably got the idea of Satan, during their Babylonian exile), let alone the very pecubar Yezidis of Kurdistan, who deny the existence of evil altogether and believe that Satan is the chief of God's angels.

No, it is the demonization of "The Other" that Pagels is writing about, and in particular the deliberate and fateful demonization, in the first centuries of Christianity, of the mass of the Jewish people - mostly by other Jews. with Pontius Pilate purely fic-Successive New Testament nional? Was Pilate himself, for non, cast the Jewish people Wondering whether the evangelists meant this literally is about like wondering whether

The Origin of Satan by Elaine Pagels Allen Lane, £20

but despite the book's title that is not the point. The point is that Mark, Matthew, Luke and John, writing in dangerous times of Roman domination, were anxious to put the blame for Christ's death upon the Jews rather than upon the Romans, and thus established a tradition and a reproach which perhaps did not end with the Holocaust.

entirely fascinating and, to an innocent like me, horrifying too. Could it really be that Christ's evangelists, the ultimate spokesmen of Love and Truth, were hardly more than spin-doctors? Did they make up the entire episode of Christ's appearance before the Sanhedrin? Was Christ's dialogue gospels, she demonstrates, whom most of us probably while naturally giving a cos- have some sneaking sympathy, mological meaning to the whole story of Christ's execua bigot? Worst of all, could Matthew simply have invented more and more in the role of the terrible cry of the Jewish devils - children of Satan. crowd - "His blood be oo us, and on our children" - which has reverberated so appallingly down the centuries?

and the more vicious towards This part of the book is the Jews at large, until in the last one (John's), Jesus himself allegedly pronounces the anathema: "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning ... he is a liar, and the father of it. In the end the Jews who oppose Christ appear to be no longer a mere ethnic or religious group, but a kind of communal symbol of evil "Deploying the devil",

The devil you know: Hell, as

seen by Pel de Limbourg in 1410

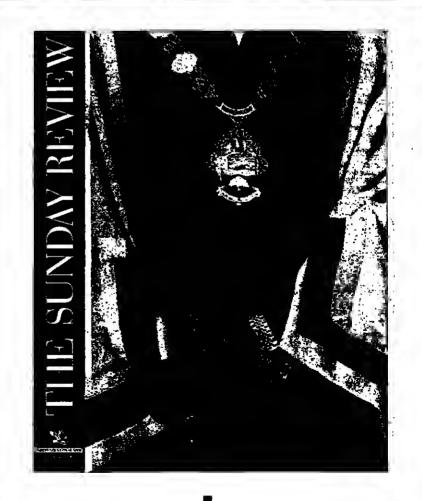
tifying the title of her book. Later, irrelevance seems to creep in. Pagels drifts off into miscellaneous reportage about early Christianity: persecu-tion under the Romans, based upon learned papers the Archbishop of Canterbury The later the gospel, it she has written for scholarly really believes in virgin birth, seems, the more distorted, growth of Christian heresies, ated it.

Pagels calls this disreputable

progression, momentarily jus-

none of which tell us much more about the Satanic idea. We are left to surmise whether the early Christians - Jesus himself, for that matter believed in Satan as an actual being, or whether the Devil was, for most of them, no more than a sort of frightful logo. Did the evangelists wish us to suppose that Jesus encountered Satan bodily in the desert, and resisted his temptations face to face, or were they talking allegorically? Was Judas Iscariot an actual embodiment of Satan, flesh and blood, in the way that Jesus was God made man? Pagels never tackles this transcendental aspect of her subject. Her approach remains sternly textual and academic.

But that's theology for you, I suppose. The events discussed in this book have had consequences almost unimaginably important. Much of buman history bas turned upon the death of Christ: millions of people have suffered from the evident manipulations of the gospellers. It must be strange to spend a lifetime exploring the historical minutiae of it all, while aware of the almost farcical possibility at the centre of it: namely the fifty-fifty chance that there never has been a God at all, or a Devil either! How much easier the world would have been, if an agnostic bad cre-



Reality bites: he's black, he's communist, and he's the mayor of Eugene Terreblanche's town. Robert Block on the Afrikaners' nightmare

But is it art? Blake Morrison on pornography

Plus: Mark Lamarr - big softie at heart; and Britain's coffee craze

IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

### Ford Madex Ford: A Dual Life Vol 1: The World Before the War by Max Saunders, Oxford, £35

them are much read or even remembered today. Posterity bas agreed with him in judging his mas-terly little tragedy. The Good Soldier, and his quartet of novels about the First World War, Parade's End, his best work. The volumes of poetry, biography, criticism and topography have long since been cast into one of literary history's many oubliettes.

In this Ford bas suffered the fate of many prolific Edwardian figures but the decline in his own literary fortunes was exacerbated by the character he presented in his memoirs. His rep-utation for boastfulness and mendacity is matched in this century only by that of Roy Campbell, and the standard biography (by Arthur Mizener, 1972) is as much a work of censure as of celebration. Max Saunders's vast critical biography-almost 500 closely printed pages, followed by a further 100 pages of notes - is in part a

work of restitution. Despite its length, the present volume deals only with Ford's life up until 1916, which leaves a great deal to come, not least Parade's End, his editorship of the Transatlantic Review, and his relationships with Stella Bowen, Janice Biala and Jean Rhys, whose novel Quartet - a distinctly Fordian tragedy of amatory entanglements and moral corruption - is based

upon her involvement with him. What we have here, therefore, is the story of Ford's dual inheritance (German intellectual on his father's side. English Pre-Raphaelite on his mother's), his literary apprenticeship, his contentious collaborations with Joseph Conrad, his editorship of the English Review, his unhappy marriage and the subsequent relationship with Violet Hunt, his war service and the writing and

publication of The Good Soldier. Saunders's excellent Introduction is a thought-provoking meditation upon literary biograpby in general and its particular application to Ford, whose mysterious love life (no one actually knows whether he marplex "literary personality" make terested devotion."

ord Madox Ford wrote him as slippery as a trout. "My over 70 books, but few of aims," Saunders writes, "are to wonder at the kind of man Ford is as a writer; to ask how he became that writer, to investigate what happened while he was writing, as well as while he wasn't; to consider the implications for biography of Janice Biala's comment that 'His true private life and the one far more difficult to write ... is his inner life, the one that produced the books, not the gossip; and to attempt something like a composite portrait of Ford as revealed in his books."

This ambition is largely realised, but those who know nothing of Ford's eventful "outer" life may bave problems following its erratic course which, like that of a will-o'-thewisp, flickers intermittently among the dense thickets of critical discourse.

According to Wyndham Lewis, Ford "was a flabby lemon and pink giant, who hung his mouth open as though he were an animai at the Zoo inviting buns". but he seems to have had no difficulty attracting women, and married his first (and only legal) wife after spiriting her away from her obstructive parents.

There followed numerous affairs (probably including one with his sister-in-law); a succession of more or less scandalous partnerships; protracted, hitter and very public divorce proceedings; a brief spell in prison; persistent money problems; and frequent wrangles and fallingsout with friends and colleagues. Saunders demonstrates that Ford's work not only reflects this life but occasionally prefigures it: be would dream up the plot of a story or novel and then follow a similar course in his life.

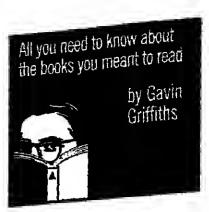
Wilde's assertion that "life imitates art" could equally be applied to Ford, who was impatient of the distinctions between real and poetic truth. "I don't really deal in facts" he wrote in bis first volume of memoirs, "I have for facts a most profound contempt." Saunders might have taken as his epigraph a pas-sage from Wilde's essay The Decay of Lying": "Lying and poetry are arts - arts, as Plato saw, not unconnected with each ried Violet Hunt), unreliability other and they require the most as an autobiographer, and com-

It is the suspicion that Ford's devotion to lying was anything but disinterested that has caused his detractors to vilify him, but Saunders investigates the most contentious of Ford's anecdotes and concludes that ambiguity (one aspect of bis "duality") explains much, while his favoured literary mode of "impressionism" leads naturally and fruitfully to a different sort of truth.

This is fine when one is dealing with literary memoirs, but not very helpful when one is trying to establish important facts. After rehearsing all the possible versions of the as yet undi-vorced Ford's "marriage" to Hunt, Saunders is obliged to admit that "it is all an impressionist haze". Following his subject's lead, however, he observes (quite rightly) that: "The evidence can't tell us conclusively what happened hut it does say much about what Ford, Hunt, and their friends and acquain-

tances thought about it. Biographies that champion their subjects are always heartening, but Saunders's detailed rebuttal of former theories is such that the reader frequently feels forgotten. Reading the book is rather like watching a particularly complicated trial from the public gallery, as Saunders painstakingly sifts the evidence and picks apart his predecessors case for the prosecution. Furthermore, his laudable advocacy occasionally leads him to discard subtleties when a more obvious explanation is staring him in the face. For instance, of *The Soul of Lon*don (1905) he writes: "the very term 'soul' - psyche - conveys a disconcertingly psychological approach to its subject". It is unlikely to have disconcerted anyone who had lived through the 1890s, a period that was almost literally soulful, and the titles of the other books in this trilogy, The Heart of the Country and The Spirit Of the People, make The Soul of London sound

almost like a cliche. That said, where others bave found fault, Saunders has discovered ricbes. The main achievement of his biography is to show the fascinating and productive interplay between fact and fiction, life and art, autobiograpby and impressionism.



This week:

### THE GOOD SOLDIER (1915) by Ford Madox Ford

Plot: "This is the saddest story I have ever heard." begins John Powell, the rich hut dim American narrator. There are three other main characters: Florence, his wife, apparently an invalid incapable of sexual intercourse: Leonora Ashburnham, a Catholic of strong principles and astringent personality; and her husband Edward, ostensibly a gentleman of the old school cursed with a dicky heart. The quartet have muted fun for nine years on their regular holidays in Nauheim, a German spa town for the physically indisposed. Then, in 1913, the Ashhurnhams bring with them their ward Nancy Rufford, and, inexplicably, Florence kills herself. Gradually. Dowell learns the truth: for nme years Florence, in the pink of health, has been enjoying an affair with Edward: Leonora has been monitoring his extramarital engagements from their inception. Florence kills herself because she realises Edward is getting steamed up about Nancy, who has just emerged from a convent education. Edward, appalled by his latest depravity, commits suicide. Nancy goes mad and Dowell nurses her. just as he nursed Florence. Leonora remarries and emerges triumphant.

Theme: "You may live with another for years and years in a condition of the closest daily intimacy and never know what goes on in your companion." Layer by layer, Ford reveals the mysteriousness of other people: individuals are frenetically driven by loneliness and lust but strive to appear buttoned-up and well-mannered. The "real" world dissolves into a series of peculiarly angled points of view.

Style: The story creeps out crabwise. Dowell changes his mind, rinkers with events, re-adjusts the reader's judgement. Ford invigorates his narrator's cliches with the injection of melodrama; the polished flatness of the prose mirrors exactly Dowell's sophisticated naivety.

Chief strengths: The tone is inextricably both pathetic and funny. Dowell's plight should evoke sympathy; but his baroque obtuseness and lack of selfreflection transform him into a clownish cuckold. Ford also unstabilises the notion of character: Edward Asbburnham is an uptight gentleman farmer beloved by tenants and a potential child molester. Uncomfortable for him and the reader.

Chief weakness: Ford's compulsion to gild the lily in several coats of emulsion diminishes some of the final impact: only Hamlet has so many casually violent deaths.

What they thought of it then: 1915 was not an auspicious year for experimental fiction, Conrad, Ford's old chum, remarked with unhelpful clusiveness: "the whole vision of the subject is perfectly amazing".

What we think of it now: Too clever. "Ford is obstructed less by his defects than by the effusiveness of total ability" (V.S. Pritchett). Damned as "a minor masterpiece".

Responsible for: Graham Greene's honunage, the equally underrated The End of the Affair.

# Walking on eggshells

Sue Arnold's endearingly frank memoirs go beyond the personal. By Christina Hardyment

It wasn't until 1985, when Sue enough for us to want to read A Burmese Legacy: Arnold was in her mid-forties, about her embarrassment at lookthat she plucked up the courage to explore the connections provided by her two Burmese grandmothers. The search for roots is as irrational and irrestistible as salmon swimming thousands of miles to find the stream in which they were spawned. The trouble is that what is fascinating for the family genealogist may he of

scant interest to the rest of us. Those who go public with their family histories tend to be the famous (remember Germaine her father. Daddy, We Hardly Knew You) or writers who feel that their origins seem to offer reflections of wider moment than the personal. The weakness of Arnold's book is that for too long we place her in the first category, though jibbing a little at the idea that a mere columnist

ing less than Anglo-Saxon, her ancient uncles in Dawlish and her mother's ill-fated attempts to keep her end up among the sub-urban snohs of North London.

But at least she is laudably unpretentious, even self-mocking. And Burma (though Arnold likes to fight the fact) has always had a galaxy of glamorous associations - General Slim, Nevitle Shute, Elephant Bill. So we bear with her, enjoying the swift and skilful pen portraits of newly dis-Greet's quest for the truth about covered relations, the adventure of ber mother's trek across Burma as a refugee (straight out of A Town Like Alice), increasingly sympathetic to the plight of the mixed-race child.

bars" and having your five-year-old knees lashed with nettles was should assume she is interesting bad enough; but to bave Sir dictatorship and democracy.

Rediscovering My Family by Sue Arnold Hodder, £17.99

Adrian Boult complaining to the editor of the Observer in the Seventies about "wops" being sent to interview him must have been

deeply humiliating. Our patience is rewarded. For the book's strength is that, as Arnold gets into her stride, we realise that she is saying something very important indeed about the attitude we should be taking towards a country that deeply affected the lives of thou-Being turned away from Fifties sands of families in Britain (27.000 hoarding houses with "colour Allied soldiers died in the Burma campaign) and which is today balanced on a knife-edge between

Myanmar, as Burma is now called, is all set to be the latest of the glamorous far-away places lauded in holiday brochures - picturesque pagodas, the road to Mandalay, the Irrawaddy river. But it is a wolf in sbeep's clothing, governed by a military dicta-torship which is exporting teak and ruhies hand over fist for private gain, and which has even sold native fishing rights to neigh-bouring countries. The tourist trails are hedged about with security guards; free speech is illadvised. On her last visit, Arnold

found her cousins suddenly mum; letters and presents went astray.
The change of name is a ruthless piece of public relations legerdemain: the generals seem to think that the flocks of tourists ripe for fleecing won't realise that this is the country in which university students were crushed in 1988 considerably more brutally than the Chinese students of



Tiananmen Square, and in which Noble Peace prizewinner Aung San Suu Kyi, whose National League for Democracy party won a landslide victory in 1990, was placed under house arrest for five

Even now, theoretically free, tional trade.
The NLD's survival depends Suu Kyi and ber supporters are walking on eggshells Many have on the impetus towards open been murdered, but many more remain. "There are too many people behind us for us to fail," said one of Arnold's cousins, elected as an NLD MP in 1990. Free speech may have temporar- could prove invaluable.

ily crushed in Burma but international protests and the big stick of economic sanctions have made it necessary for the military government to don at least the trappings of democracy in order to board the gravy train of interna-

government which has been effected by economic pressure and liberal world opinion. In this context. Arnold's endearingly frank fragment of autobiography

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## Boneless frogs and spicy porcupines

Christopher Hirst samples the "most offensive sausage in the world"

fren the most interesting apr. have concocted a fabuarguably true of the works of recipes of Apicius: roast Elizabeth David and is cer- dormice in boney and, rather lainly the case with more feasibly, squid stuffed Marinetti's Futurist Cookbook, which advocated luridly-dyed dishes garnished with rose-hips and custard with a sprinkling of cogs and for pudding.) Skipping a gears. While far from being millennium, the authors totally impractical, The Decadent Cookbook fits into this category. (Not that Marinetti Grand Inquisitor of the would have approved of it, even though one of his dishes is included. A vehement enemy of decadence, he damned spaghetti and other would include rack of lamb soft foods for their corrupting and whipped cream. Instead influence on the Italian

character.) Lucan and Gray, whose head) and spicy porcupine.
uity monikers may strike The rest of the book adopts fruity monikers may strike some as being suspiciously a thematic approach. The

cookbooks are not the lous and shocking assemblage. most practical. This is They begin with the Roman with calves brains. (Any leftover brains can be mixed move on to Antonio Ghislieri, otherwise known as the Counter Reformation. Considering his torturous trade, you might expect that the selection from his kitchen there is boneless frog soup, spitted bear (minus the

Dedalus, £8.99 authors first turn their attention to the subject of blood. Their sanguinary suggestions include Swedish black blood soup, several versions of boudin noir and a crimson tart made with blood oranges. The sombre topic of death inspires a unexpectedly vivacious selection of dishes, ranging from gravadlax (literally

(fish and lobster lurking inside

by Mediar Lucan

& Durian Gray

In a section of unusual The Decadent Cookbook meats, it comes as little surprise that a recipe for "Manila Hot Dog" is just that ("chop off head, paws and tail"). Entrecote à la Bordelaise turns out to be Rat in a Shallot Sauce. The authors take a distinctly unsentimental approach to endangered species, giving recipes for the fewer than a dozen" surviving Japanese Ibis, the Parrot Owl of New Zealand ("hunted to the point where it is almost extinct, so presumably it is rather tasty") and the Tasmanian Wolf, which has entirely disappeared apart from an occa-"grave"or "buried" salmon) sional paw-print and thereto the delightful Victorian fore "provides the best offering "Soles in Coffins" candidate for that covered

'last of the species' dish."

a hollowed-out baked putato).

sausages, which includes the sexual organs". Swiss blue sausage (its singular appearance is explained by a 1903 ordinance of the tions with a selection of Geneva Council which declared "that all sausages passages "to be read aloud made with horsemeat should be dyed blue"), a medieval porpoise sausage and a black often presumed to be tremubear sausage. Some decadent hangers with a more con- to possess such ferociously ventionally porcine filling robust and apparently limitless are Presswurst (containing pig's head and salted pork rind, it is described as "probably the most offensive sausage in the world") and a southern Italian monstrosity called La nduia. Demanding 70lbs of "lowest quality pig meat" and 10lbs of hot red peppers, this dish is renowned for its capacity to

Perhaps the book's high scour the arteries, purge the point is the chapter on intestines and exhilarate the

Lucan and Gray have holstered their arcane excavaappropriately saucy literary during dinner". It comes as a revelation that decadents, lous, Firbankian types, seem

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# Street incredibility

It's the fag-end of the City boom. It's a Yank in London. It's a castle in Cricklewood. By Douglas Kennedy

con Marshalt is a man with a phobia about his ocsophagus. He doesn't trust it. It plays tricks on him. It wants him dead. You see, Mr Marshall has a problem when it comes to ingesting food. It tends to lodge in that one with an expatriate Engalimentary canal between the pharynx and the stomach, threatening to asphyxiate him. Were he a sexual fetishist (of the lack of oxygen = heightened orgasm school of perversion), he would no doubt consider his constricted gullet something of a physiological bonus. But as he is a management consultant in the City, he simply regards it as a dangerous nuisance - and he recently suffered a moment of existennial tristesse while erossing Blackfriars Bridge and chomping on a Mars Bar.

However, it's not just his oesophagus which is eonstricting Mr Marshall. His entire life is currently throitling him - he is having a bad attack of "dem thirtysomething hlues".

On the surface, his existence looks as shiny and enviable as some lestosterone-charged sports coupe. Of course, behind the lustrous surface lnrks a less glittery underside. It is 1990, the venal glory days of the City are well and truly dead, and Scott - like every other financial whizzkid - is wondering when the downsizing American patois, this Taylor axe is going to fall on his neck. His private life is a specialised business. And jumbled mess. He has a dying father, a psychotic girlfriend, a dubious management consultancy with a very dubious fourth division football club, and an all-enveloping sense of cultural displacement.

For Scott Marsball - the narrator of D.J. Taylor's **English Settlement** by D. J. Taylor Chatto, £17.99

lish mother who hasn't set font on this island in years). And, like all expatriates, he suffers from a had case of Mid-Atlantieism - of feeling precariously balanced beiween two cultures.

Mr Marshall also has another major predicament on his hands: he is the first American I've ever encountered in fiction who sounds like a supercilious by-produet of the English public school system. Or, 10 he a little more blunt about it, he doesn't sound American at all. My eredibility meter immediately entered the red zone when 1 encountered passages like this: "My father was not alto-

gether a suhtle man, but in the matter of England he displayed a rare and wholly efficacious delicacy. Saturated in England and Englishness, albeit of a momentously specialized sort, we questioned the incidental detail of this grand obsession rather than its wider architecture". David Mamet beware

when it comes to awesomely accurate renderings of guy is the momentously note the street-smart idiom he employs when describing Scott's arrival at his place of business; "Reaching recep-tion with its clutch of toothy, well-groomed traffic, I flick my KLS pass at a seneschal and waft by unimpeded".

Riveting. Wortby of James Ellroy. And, of course, when English Settlement - is an I was doing Latin during my American in London (albeit New York schooldays, we

were taught to greet all Central Park West doormen with the salutation: Salve, seneschal!(a seneschal for those of you who didn't benefit from a Yankee education, being "the steward or major domo of a medieval great house").
Then there's Mr Taylor's

remarkable command of American socio-political nuance. Scott's racist southern grandfather voted Republican until Goldwater's defeat in 1964. How intriguing - as no southern redneek would bave dared support the Republicans (the party of Lincoln, after all) until Ronnie Reagan came along. And then there's Sentt's hrother who sells timeshare apartments to movie stars in Montana. Benidorm-style timeshares in a state where the average movie-star ranch is 1500 acres? I love an author wbo does his research. As real estate faux-pas go, this is up there with: "And then I moved to London and rented a fabulous gothie castle in Cricklewood".

I could go on - because English Settlement is not simply riddled with fundamental inaccuracies; it is also street-dumb, Besides Mr Taylor's inability to make bis narrator sound remotely American, the world Scott-Inhabits bears no relation to contemporary life.

If you set out to write a State of England/Between Two Cultures, novel, the least you owe your reader is accurate reportage when it comes to workaday detail and the rhythms of speech. But, like so much bad literary fiction these days, English Settlement has no connection to life-on-thestreet; rather, it is set in a preposterous Biba of preening and all-pervasive



Take that, resplendent in lion-side wrap, metiese idel grin and ground accessories, Autonio Pollaholo's Hercules fights off the Hydra— a classic image of brute force, according to The Hero: Manhood and Power' by John Lash (Thames & Hindson, £8.95). "Every contest between hero and mouster suggests how the two must become untangled psychologically".



Just as a classic piece of women's fiction wins a major prize, we get positive discrimination. Emma Hagestadt sounds a warning

It's been a good year for literary women, particularly those living north of the Watford Gap. First the majestic Pat Barker made the journey down frnm Thornby-on-Tees to the Guildball tn collect her Booker cheque for The Ghost Road; and this week, Yorksbire-born mother Kate Atkinson (younger and without the reassuring bosom) scooped up the 1995 Whitbread Book of the Year for her first novel, Behind the Scenes at the Museum. Both ladies are more likely to be found at Betty's Tea Room

To those who complain that women have no place in the macho world of the Nineties novel, one could argue that at least Pat Barker won the Booker with a novel about men and war; whereas Atkinson's book is beyond any doubt high-octane "women's fiction". It concerns families, marriages, birth and death, all of it set above a pet shop in York. Nothing could be more intimate, provincial or riveting.

Behind the Scenes is like reading Margaret Forster on Vimto. It buzzes with peppery intelligence and unconventional good sense in its depiction of several generations of Yorkshire women in a family frustrated by bad marriages and bad luck. Atkinson writes with celestial cunning, and ber meshing of Ruby's history with not only her mother's (the sour-faced Bunty) and with grandmothers and great-grandmothers, is the real triumph of the book.

But women baven't always been this lucky. In the last ten years, most of the big literary prizes (and most desirable cheques - £20,000 for "women's fiction" turning the Booker, £21,000 for the into the Bessie-Bunty school Wbitbread) have gone to of modern literature.

men. In the last ten years, female Booker winners have numbered only three - Penelope Lively in 1986, AS Byatt in 1990, Pat Barker last year -while the only female Whil-bread laureate hefore Ms Atkinson was Joan Brady in 1993. In black and white terms, the boys have bagged £308,000, the girls £102,000.

With the launeb this week of the "women only" Orange Prize for Fiction - £30,000 for the best English-language novel by a woman - the income prospects for literary ladies bave taken a turn for the better. But since the than schmoozing over Jack
Daniels at the Groucho
Club.

Orange Prize is exclusively
female, and will be judged by
an all-women panel, its announcement has met with a predictable bray of disapproval. A.S. Byatt, for one, criticised the award for

"ghettoising" women. Perbaps the danger is that we shall start to think there is a gbetto called "women's literature", rather than a concept of "literature" that transcends gender. Women bave indeed been under-represented in book prizes in the Nineties, but the reason for this may lie not in the macho prejudice of juries but in the zeitgeist: in the caution of publishers, in the lack of will among younger women authors to write literary fiction, in the extraordinary drift toward warlike and violent themes...

The Orange Prize may represent a clearing of the decks by women writers, a timely consideration of what fiction - by either sex should be at the end of the century; but it's a revaluation that needs careful monitoring. The Orange awards will apparently be known as "Bessies". Ms Atkinson's fic-tional Mum was called Bunty. We do not want to see "women's fiction" turning



Reviewed by Emma Hagestadt and Christopher Hirst



A Fez of the Heart by Jeremy Seal (Picador, £6.99)

Hats are the stepping stones of Turkish history. Seal suggests. After the abolition of the turban in 1826, the fez came to symbolise Turkey until it too was banned in 1925. In a marvellous mélange of travel and history. Seal pursues the lingering remnants of "fez culture" in order to probe the complex character of modern Turkey. Original and beautifully observed, the book reads like Chatwin with jokes.



Sunrise with Sea Monster by Neil Jordan (Vintage, £5.99)

Neil Jordan's third novel is as sensuous as any of his films. Locked together in a terraced bouse above the Irish Sea, father and son find unexpected release with the arrival of a young piano teacher and the outbreak of war. A quietly melodramatic book that catches German submarines, sea monsters and lost love in one tight net.



Journals 1982-1986 by Anthony Powell (Heinemann, £9.99)

These jortings make you wish the novelist had kept a diary all his life. Along with much waspish wit, there is broad comedy as Powell. 80, tangles with the modern world. Mistakenly thinking Mrs Thateher a fan of Apollinaire, be perplexes ber by referring to the poet whenever they meet. Fascinated by genealogy, he muses about pop star Roger Daltrey. "a Lincolnshire name, connected with my mother's family. I think."



Remembering My Good Friends by George Weidenfeld (HarperCollins, £7.99)

Fresh from Nazi Vienna, George Wei-denfeld compared entry into English society to stepping into a series of Turkish baths; but quicker than he could say "Vita Sackville-West", he was living it up in Fitzrovia, the Savov and Oxfordshire. His fruitily avuncular autobiography revels in encounters with the posb (The Longfords) and the good (The Pope).



The Last Great Frenchman by Charles Williams (Abacus, £12.99)

So intransigent during wartime exile that Churchill referred to him as "the beast of Hampstead", de Gaulle saw himself as France personified. By taking power in 1958, he "almost certainly saved the country from civil war". Charles Williams believes that he never forgave Britain for defeating Sudan in 1898. This absorbing work reveals the introspective intellectual hidden bebind the unbending public



The Virago Book of Women Travellers, edited by Mary Morris (Virago, £8.99)

An unusually entertaining anthology of pieces by women travellers who took the bull by the borns, or in one case, the horse hetween the legs. Gems include Margaret Fountaine on chasing butterflies (and men) in Calabria; and the aptly named Etbel Brilliana Tweedie on the perils of riding side-saddle.



A Mathematician Reads the Newspaper by John Allen Paulos (Penguin, £6.99)

As you would expect of a maths prof, Paulos deprecates the lazy thinking and statistical illiteracy he finds in the daily blats. He notes that a recipe claiming to provide 761 calories per serving is "meaningless precision". Chaos theory, Paulos says, explains why forecasts are often inaccurate: the best are short-term, simple and hazy. A revealing, if bitty, critique, user-friendly to the innumerate.



Married Love by Marie Stopes (Gollancz, £6.99)

Marie Stopes's classic exploration of sex and women's "sorrow" is still a fascinating read nearly 90 years after its first publication. Wonderfully lyrical when it comes to women's "moon-month" rhythms and "sex-tides", Stopes isn't afraid of naming mucus membranes or tumescent parts. An advocate of the revitalizing benefits of separate bedrooms and Alpine air.

### We recommend...

Barnes (Cape, £13.99) Sexy, sweet and affectionate tales of life outre Manche.

Vice Versa: Bisexuality and the Eroticism of Everyday life by Marjorie Garber, (Hamish Hamilton, £25) Bisexuality and its meanings.

Dear Dodie by Valerie Grove (Chatto, £13.99) Entertaining biography of the live wire behind The One Hundred and One Dalmations.

Whisky Galore read by Stanley Baxter (BBC Radio Collection, £7.99). Delicious Hebridean goings-on.

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# For Taurus, happiness lies in a superior salvia

You can plan your life by the stars, so why not your garden? 'Mystic' Anna Pavord presents a horticultural horoscope

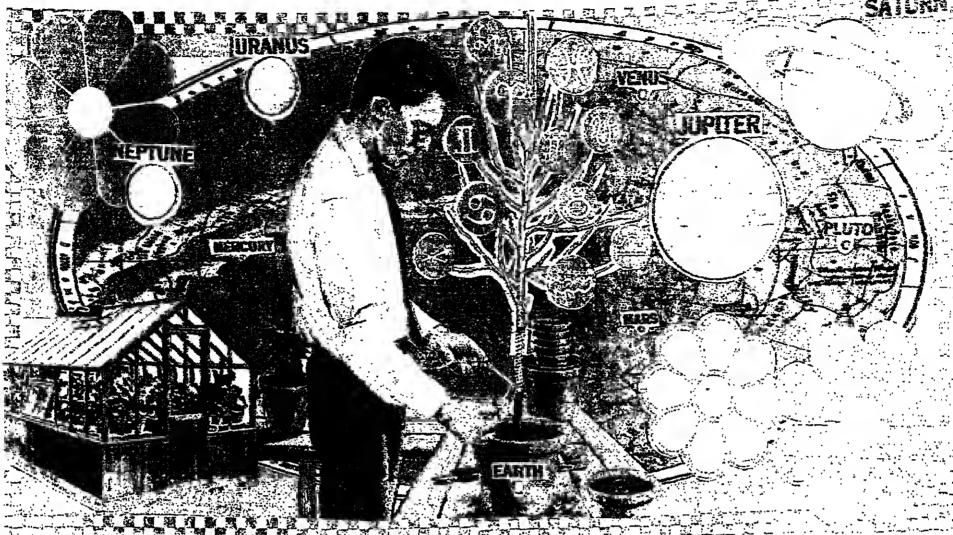
ow can it be that a serious newspaper such as the *Independent* is still without a horoscope? Everybody knows what an important part they play in public life these days, and yet here we are with no Mystic Meg, no Petulengro or astrologist of any kind on the staff. It really is too bad. Most horoscopes, though, tend to be obsessed with peripheral matters: career opportunities, emotional relationships and such like. These are interesting enough in their way, but cannot compare with the really big issues: the arrival of a new pot in your life, the anxieties caused by a demanding aspidistra. Stargazers – start here.

Aquarius (22 Jan-19 Feb) Dream on Aquarians. One day you, too, could be asking a question on Gardeners' Question Time. But there is a danger that in your own garden, your dreams will never quite be translated into reality. Get round this problem neatly by designing gar-dens for other people instead. The future will always be more interesting to you than the past. Junk Jekyll. Think instead of pergolas of past. Junk Jekyll. Think instead of pergolas or spun steel, water gardens of perspex and laser light shows among the lilies. Uranus in your birth sign makes it likely that you will want to try out things that others might regard as slightly eccentric. But if they don't like your trompe-l'oeil Taj Mahal in mirror and bottle tops, more fool them.

Pisces (20 Feb-20 Mar) The Sun in your birth sign after the 19th means that you will be able to do whatever you set your mind to over the next few weeks. But still, choices must be made. 'Kiftsgate' rose or 'Rambling Rector'? 'Mermaid' or 'Paul's Himalayan'? Letting nature take its course can prove a doubtful doctrine as you may have already found this winter. Drains and poplars do not mix. Pis-ceans are apt to be lazy and take the line of least resistance; you are curiously drawn towards wildflower gardens. But Pisceans are also intuitive. You will recognise that a plant is in difficulty long before it is past saving, a useful trait in a gardener.

Aries (21 Mar-20 April) Ariens are good at getting round obstacles and are extremely energetic. All your ebullient energy will be needed this month to circumvent some great drama. It may involve a neighbour. It may involve a boundary. You like quick results, which makes you an impatient gardener. Try this year to curb the trait. In the garden centre, avoid annuals which will die this year and go for perennials which will die next year instead. After the 15th, Mars, your ruler, moves into a tricky part of your chart. Avoid this period for servicing lawnmowers.

this game of horticultural one-upmanship, Taureans will score every time for they are careful, tenacious gardeners. Venus, your ruler, enters the bossy sign of Aries on the 9th and the days thereafter may be full of auxiety. Should it be petunias rather than busy lizzies in the front border this year? Choose carefully, positive side this can be said: you do not believe in short cuts. Taureans always read the instructions on a pack of weedkiller.



Genini (22 May-21 Jun) Criticism never goes down well with Geminis, but is it, after all, such a good idea to plant an all-black garden? It is vogueish, certainly, but you may begin to find it just the teensiest bit limiting. You can bave too much even of ophiopogon. Finance con-tinues to be a problem and will be until you learn that you do not necessarily have to throw away the potted camellias after they have finished flowering. You are good at pretending to know more than you do, love variety and will be a compulsive buyer of garden gadgets. Speaking of which, there is the most amazing gismo around now which cuts edges, shaves legs and minces parsley.

Cancer (22 Jun-22 Jul) Your delight in the dif-Taurus (21 Apr-21 May) Happiness is a more ficult comes to the fore this month when Virgo (24 Aug-23 Sep) The sun in something Scorplo (24 Oct-22 Nov) Your delight in a bar- Capricorn (22 Dec-21 Jan) Long-standing obscure salvia than your neighbour's and in seedlings, always keener on dying than living, course. You are known for your delight in lookin the front border this year? Choose carefully, for old ties, once severed, may never be remade. Your worst fault is stubborness. Try and accept advice more readily. But on the support systems for your house plants when you go away. But this might be the year when you discover that you can get seeds which actually take less than a year to germinate.

Leo (23 Jul-23 Aug) This is a decisive month for Leos as it marks the start of the giant onion season, the Leo's favourite plant. Make the most of it. Pluto bas a challenging aspect which may mean that slugs are massing. The limelight you enjoy will pass you by unless you attend assiduously to watering and pricking out. Outrageous flowers such as gladioli and dahlias, chrysanthemums and begonias are much more likely to be your thing than the more tasteful euphorbias and bellebores. Leos are generous, the part and the more careful exploration and the second control of the second cont though, and therefore goodpeople to have as neighbours. "My rose is your rose." they will say munificently as their Bobby James' ram-bler climbs over the boundary fence and reaches 15ft tentades across your lawn.

demand your attention. Pluto, warring with Mars on the 19th, indicates difficulties in your personal life. Hang on, though: your partner's predilection for mixing purple and orange in not help this month by leaving tools lying the herbaceous border has almost run its unseen in the shrubbery. All the portents suggest that your black eye will have healed by the solstice. You are likely to be a good planner and organiser but you must learn not to fret if things do not always go as they should. But then that's gardening for you. You are probably best left to garden on your own, for you can be hypercrincal, often unfairly, of other

Libra (24 Sep-23 Oct) Unexpected developments are about to after the whole course of your gardening life. Look for love among the bonsai trees, bowever unlikely this may seem. Everything this month points towards a complete break with the past. Chuck nut all your hostas and think Japanese. Librans are star gardeners for they are diplomatic, love bar-mony and are brilliant mediators. Get yourself elected chairman of your county's National Gardens Scheme committee. They need you. Occasional indecision is your only downfall. but when you have decided, the results in your own garden are likely to be much photographed. Librans get their gardens into all the best magazines.

cers of the Fraud Squad turn up to repossess the divine little cherub you picked up for two songs in Pimlico. The National Trust logo stamped firmly on the base should bave warned you that something perhaps was amiss. Never mind. Back to Haddonstone. You are likely to bave a beady eye for everyone else's business as well as your own. Trust a Scorpio to give you the cheapest source of supply for anything from compost to cotoneasters. You are also likely to be argumentative. When at dinner parties stay off contentious issues such as peat and pespeides.

Sagittarius (23 Nov-21 Dec) You need to assert your independence this month - and fast. No matter what the style gurus say, it is perfectly possible to plant a garden without a single greyleaved plant in it. Try it and see. There are other far-reaching changes on the horizon. Goodbye chrysanthemum. Hello dendranthema, leucanthemopsis, arctanthemum, tanacetum... You do not always realise how hurtful your bluntness. a characteristic of all Sagittarians, can be. Some people really do love cacti dressed up in sunglasses and paper skirts. It is not your place to stop them buying them. You rarely sulk, however. But it is equally rare for you to learn from your mistakes, Sagittarians murder more rhododendrons than any other group of gardeners.

or other provides just the boost you need to gain has unexpected consequences when offi- attachments are hard to break but, for once, forget the pennies and lash out on a pair of secateurs. They will be so much easier to use on the philadelphus than the bayonet from the hat-stand in the hall. Economical is the polite way to describe Capricorn gardeners. You are the people who save seeds wrapped in screws of paper in old Ovaltine tins and who hover round the recycling bins, waiting to retrieve Gardens Illustrated magazines that other souls are throwing away. But you are likely to work hard, not shirking even the most hideous chores such as scrubbing down the greenhouse. If you are hiring help in the garden, check birthdates first.

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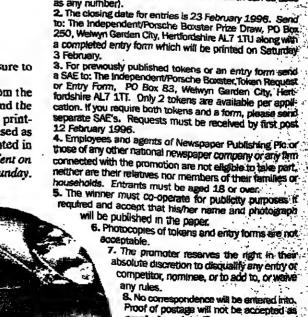
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tive. The Editor's decision is final. 10. The Porsche Boxster should be available in November 1996, but is dependent on production dates.

RECLAIMING THE COUNTRYSIDE 1: FARMLAND Britain's wildlife is under threat. Malcolm Smith looks at ways farmers can repair the damage they have done

# Call this green and pleasant land?

n Boundary Farm at Framsden. near Stowmarket in Suffolk. barn owls are hunting over the winter-chilled fields. Come the spring, along with partridges and a couple of pairs of lapwings, the owls will hreed; an indica-tor, according to the farmer, Chris Bacon, that Boundary Farm's wildlife is on the up.

A few decades ago, these farmland species - and an awful lot more - would have been taken for granted. What cereal field didn't have a scattering of scarlet poppies and blue cornflowers? What hay meadow wasn't alive with grasshoppers or didn't have skylarks ascending over it?

That was hefore Britain's agricultural revolution. Fuelled by the EC's Common Agricultural Policy, our farmland has been transformed. Pastures and meadows have been ploughed up, weilands drained, hedges grubbed out and crops sprayed with copious quantities of insecticides, all because of a policy obsession with producing more and more food irrespective of the cost or of its environmental impact.

The destruction of wildlife has been unprecedented. In the 50 years to 1984, England and Wales lost 97 per cent of its natural lowland grasslands, the haunt of celandines, of blue butterflies, of shrews and reed huntings. Limestone and chalk grassland - one of our richest habitats for flowers and insects - is reduced to 40,000 hectares countrywide. Sussex, alone, lost a quarter of its chalk grassland between 1966 and 1980. According to the British Trust for Ornithology, 24 out of 28 farmland bird species are in decline.

Skylarks, for instance, have declined by 58 per cent over the last 25 years, a loss of three million birds. Others have fared even worse; tree sparrows down by 89 per cent and grey partridge by 82 per cent. Many once abundant flowers, insects and mammals - from shrews to brown hares - are now few and far between on Britain's farms.

Apart from habitat loss, Andy Evans and his colleagues at the RSPB list two other crucial changes which have affected farmland hirds,



Firstly, most farmers have switched from sowing ccreal crops in the spring to sowing them in autumn. So winter stubbles - a rich source of spilt grain and of flower and grass seeds left hehind after the crop has been cut are now uncommon. It's thought to be a major factor in the demise of the corn hunting.

Secondly, insecticide sprays have annihilated many of the invertebrates which oestlings are fed on. Spraying crops with selective herbicides to eliminate unwanted flowers not only

depictes the plants themselves but it removes the habitat many of the invertebrates need. The paucity of sawfly larvae appears to he a major factor in the

decline of farmland grey partridge.

Spurred on by the CAP's largesse. more and more farmers in the 1960s and 1970s intensified and specialisedinto cereal growing, into dairy cattle farming; or into sheep grazing. Mixed farms have been disappearing at the rate of some 1,400 a year.

But in the last decade the CAP has heen modifying its shape, largely as a and wildlife.

result of mounting criticism over food surpluses and their storage but partly, too, because of the destruction of wildlife habitats. Schemes such as Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs), Stewardship in England, Tir Cymen in Wales, the Habitats Scheme and others are all designed, in one way or another, to make annual payments to farmers in exchange for them farming in a much more environmentally sensitive way. Slowly, they are helping to put back some of the lost habitats

"I've entered 50 acres of grassland into the Suffolk River Valleys ESA. says Chris Bacon. "We're going to be taking a hay cut and grazing it afterwards. These fields were all arable until recently but in the old days they were meadows. The idea is to get them richer in plants again," he adds.

In the middle of Mr Bacon's land is the six-acre Fox Fritillary Meadow owned by the Suffolk Trust for Nature Conservation, a haven for snakeshead fritilleries, beautiful, purple flowers reminisceot of drooping tulips. Like feather back in the CAP.

their damp meadow habitat, they were once more common. A few have reappeared in Mr Bacon's fields adjacent to the Trust's meadow, an early sign of

Setaside, introduced compulsorily in 1992 to take cereal growing land out of production, is also henefiting wildlife. Rotational setaside, where the fields taken out of production are different ones each year, is of less value because it doesn't allow wildlife habitat - except weedy stubbles for seedeating hirds - to develop long term.

Setting aside the same fields or field edges for several years is better. Allowing a grassland to grow where once there was a copiously sprayed field of barley attracts not only flowers but ground oesting hirds like skylarks and lapwings, voles and shrews increase too, so now uncommon harn owls have choice in their farmland

diet once again. So far, 1.5 million acres of land in the UK are setaside. The RSPB believes that it could become one of the most important means of reintroducing wildlife to many farms long devoid of the habitats and species they once nurtured. But much more flexibility is required in the rules, especially to allow farmers to graze livestock on land setaside to manage it effectively for wildlife.

Superficially, England's green and pleasant land appears just that. But in its artificial greening – the result of dosing with fertilisers and pesticides - our farmland has lost most of the wildlife it nurtured into the 1950s.

Repairing the damage has begun. According to the RSPB, the CAP must be further reformed to encourage a reduction in the intensity of farming operations, a return to more mixed farming and to protect traditional practices which conserve babitats such as sheep grazing on chalk grassland. They also want to see more lowland farmland put back to species-rich beathland, woodland wetlands and grassland.

That way, farmers can grow wildlife as well as food on their land and put a

### It was his smell, not his anorak, that caused chaos

eer-stalking one autumn in Argyllshire, we conceived an amhitious plan to go for some stags which we had seen, through telescopes, lying out day after day on a face at the far end of the forest. It meant an early start, and after a strenuous three-aod-a-balf bour approach march, we were baving a hreather within striking distance of our quarry.

Then, to our infinite chagrin, we spotted a single hiker coming down the ridge from Ben Staray, a prominent peak to the north. His sky-blue anorak and white woolly hat with red bobble on it made him immensely conspicuous but it was his smell, rather than his appearance, that caused chaos. Long before be came into the view of the deer, a whiff of his scent sent the stags hurtling away round the shoulder of the hill.

We never found them again. The hiker disappeared. He never saw us. He never saw the deer. He cannot have had any idea that he bad ruined our plan and our day - but all we could do in the afternoon was trudge for bome.

It was incidents of this kind. repeated a hundred times over

FUL GARDENS TAKE SHAPE

gritrames



HART-DAVIS

and with ever-increasing frequency, that led eventually to the "Concordat on Access" to the Scottish hills which was ceremonially signed last week at Battleby, oear Perth, the headquarters of Scottish Natural Heritage. So contentious is the whole subject that meetings had been going on intermittently for nearly two years, and the paper passed through eight drafts before everyooe was satisfied with its wording. Several of the participants ramblers, mountaineers, farmers, deer-forest owners, local authorities - reckon the Access Forum would have foundered but for the exceptional diplomatic skills of Magnus Magnusson, Chairman of SNH, who directed proceedings. The Concordat rings with

dom of access to the hills responsibility"; visitors must accept "the needs of land management" and "have respect for the needs of livestock and wildlife"; land-managers must recognise "the public's expectation of having access to the hills".

One aim of the agreement is to defuse the confrontational attitude of organisations such as the Ramhlers' Association, which have tended to regard the deer-forest owners as the enemy. In a way such antagonism has been inevitable, for the reddeer ground covers a vast range - some six million acres of open hill, and nearly two million of plantations - and encompasses most of the Highlands.

The paramount need of the owners is to cull their berds efficiently so that they can keep numbers to a level which the environment can sustain. It is thus vital to them that in the culling season - autumn and early winter - their ground is disturbed as little as possible.

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phrases designed to promote tolerance on all sides. Free- and mountaineers do not see why they should be harred should be "exercised with from land that is appareotly open to all.

The answer, of course, is

compromise. The owners now accept that they must provide more information. Notices beside paths, warning visitors that stalking is in progress, will be friendlier and fuller than in the past. Leaflets explaining when, where and why culling bas to take place will be made available in information centres, hotels and pubs. Another idea is to set up an efficient hill telephone service, with answer-tapes saying which areas will or will not be safe

during the next 24 hours. The owners naturally hope that visitors will respond to such initiatives and realise that "factors other than their own enjoyment also have importance". They know that the Concordat is a fragile agreement, not supported by law, but they prefer a volun-tary solution of their problems to a legal one, and now, as Mr Gibbs puts it, they "very much hope that everyone will join in

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Travel

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# travel skiing

### The armchair skier

If you can't afford the sort of fantasy skiing shown on these pages, relax. You can experience it on video. By Liese Spencer

Scot and buddies, retiring to remote corners of Montana in search of powder and perfection, drive endlessly towards the camera or drop from cliffs to the sounds of a Beavis and Butthead-style soundtrack. The film captures spectacular scenery as the boys snowmobile into untracked territory, building igloos and following a New Age ethos of non-polluting igloos and following a New Age ethos of non-polluting igloos and following a New Age ethos of non-polluting for the first form of the following a New Age ethos of non-polluting for the first form of the first form ing sportsmanship. Worth watching for the trip to Antarctica.

Columbia TriStar, 50 mins, £18.99

r-lex Lies and Duct tape
A snowstorm has been raging in British Columbia for four days - cue for powder-junkie Greg Stump to ignore avalanche warnings and get out on Whistler mountain. A bizarre mix of tectonic history, mogul championships and nude sking is topped by the inexplicable presence of a hooded skier moving between the trees. Black Diamond, 75 mins, £16.99

Here absolute pleasure is "flying through space off a 50ft cliff". While snowscape from Chamonix to Alaska provides breathtaking imagery, the film is fronted by nerds in shades, modelling their facial hair for the camera. Watching this makes you wish the gang would try jumping off a cliff without skis. Black Diamond, 45 mins £18.99

Soul Session and Epic Impressions

Snowboarders carve into pristine slopes, while expert skiers race down vertiginous paths, skimming the ground with gravity-defying elegance. This makes you wish a helicopter would drop you on a mountain top and leave you to find your own way down – until scenes of a skier disappearing into an avalanche remind you of the pleasures of armchair skiing. Black Diamond, 45 mins, £18.99

Videos available from Snow+Rock shops. Details: 0171-937 0872

### **Snow reports**

weekend arrived midweek - hut only m parts. Some of the heaviest snow has fallen in Italy, with the unfortunate effect of putting off the World Cup downhill race scheduled for yesterday in Sestriere. France has also had some fresh snow, hut into hard-pack. In the Rockmany of the northern resorts ies snow midweek added to missed out (Chamonix is the existing good base. Most only two-thirds open). resorts in Colorado and Hardly any Swiss or Austrian resorts have had new snow even at resort level - Snowand rock-hard pistes are bird as usual leads the field about the best you can hope with around 3m.

The snow promised last for there. Conditions in eastem Europe are no better than fair, but in the Pyrences Andorra is enjoying about the best skiing in Europe. has turned Vermont's skiing Utah bave 1m to 2m of snow

# You can spend £600 a night to stay in the Austrian resort of Gstaad. Is it worth it?

Chris Gill checks out the world's six most glamorous ski resorts

ven if budgetary consider-ations confine most of us to routinely expensive resorts such as Val d'Isère and St Anton, it's reassuring to see that the other half well, the other 5 per cent – have pretty much the same sort of ski-ing as we do. As it happens, skiing in the most glamorous resorts is not necessarily much more expensive than doing so in any big, interna-tionally known resort. But it certainly can be more expensive if you make the most of what's on offer in the hotels, restaurants and shops.

In our selection of the world's six most glamorous resorts, it's only right that affluent Switzerland should be allowed more than its fair share. Students of royal ski expeditions will look in vain for Klosters; it's not particularly glamorous and is certainly not a self consciously smart resort. -the Prince of Wales goes for the skiing and warm reception.

### Aspen

If you're going for American swank, this old mining town in Colorado is the place. The standard view is that Aspen attracts mainly film stars and other celebrities, who seek seclusion in private mansions. But lesser mortals can be cosseted in the opulent Ritz-Carlton or splen-didly Victorian Jerome (even more expensive at £250 to £480 per room per night), and choose from scores of restaurants before shooting pool in a basement dive or wangling entry to the Caribou Club. Shopping for expensive trinkets as well as clothes is a major activity, coming a close second to skiing on no less than four excellent mountains, from small but steep Aspen Mountain above the town to hig and varied Snowmass, 12 miles away.



Aspen: the shopping is great, the skiing is better

### Courchevel

With two restaurants earning twin Michelin stars, the smartest resort in France is also the gastronomic capital of skiing. But the thousands of Brits who flock here each winter come for the excellence and extent of the Trois Vallées skiing, stay in catered chalets and eat picnics and Mars bars at lunch time. To break the mould, fly in by air taxi to the airstrip amid the ski fields, stay up in the exclusive Jardin des Alpin (or perhaps in the rather vulgar Byblos des Neiges with rooms at a mere £250-£500 a

night), lunch only just above village level at the Chalet de Pierres and dine at the Bateau Ivre.

### Cortina d'Ampezzo

Italy's most fashionable resort by a considerable margin - in season, a feast for the eyes, when the spectacular Dolomite scenery is complemented by sun terraces full of sharp-dressing Italian visitors. Many of the best lunch spots are accessible by car - a happy arrangement, since many of their patrons would not be seen dead on skis, despite the gloriously long there. But ride up a ski-lift on the

and spacious nursery slopes. For lunch at the Michelin-starred Tivoli, allow £30 even with a weak lira. A good resort for intermediates, but not much to offer experts.

France

Gstaad Consumption seems relatively inconspicuous here, in what is nevertheless one of the most upmarket of Switzerland's resorts. The winding main street might be that of any Vaudois country village, were it not for the number of Geneva jewellers with outlets

surrounding prettily wooded hills and into view come the turrets of and into view come the turrers of the Disney-style Palace hotel, where half-board goes from £200-£600 (per night), and the private chalets where Gstaad habitue's spend their winter months. The spend their winter months skiing is low and fragmented; if you're keen, go elsewhere.

### Lech-Zürs

These distinct but linked villages, high in the exceptionally snowy Arlberg mountains close to St Arlberg mountains close to standard and an are Austria's smartest—this is the only area in the country where environmental opposition to heli-skiing is ignored. The Princess of Wales patronises pretty Lech, and Princess Caroline of Monaco may or may not still visit less appealing Zürs, but fat Mercs with German plates sliding into underground garages define the market. For après-skiers, the ice bar of the Tannbergerhof is the place to be seen, having flicked your flexible friend across the counters of Strokz – a mini department store that seems to sell anything provided it costs enough.

### St Moritz

The Swiss resort first patronised in winter by the dowdy British is now among the smartest in the Alps. Of the five-star hotels, you may feel at home in the dull Kulm or the pleasantly secluded Suvretta, but Viyella-clad Brits aiming to relive past glories on the Cresta run or explore the scenic and entertaining ski area should leave the glossy Carlton to the Germans and the Gothic excesses of mans and the Gothic excesses of Badrutt's Palace (half-board £200-£500 a night) to the Yanks, Lunch should be at the slick Marmite (£30 for a plate of pasta), dinner out at Champfer - allow £60 for the Michelin-starred John's Talvo.

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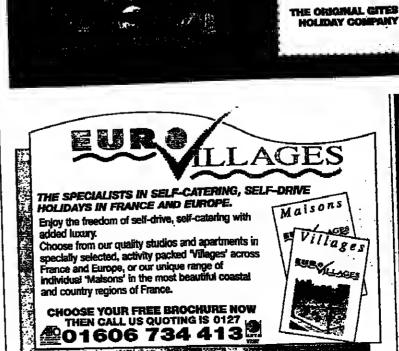
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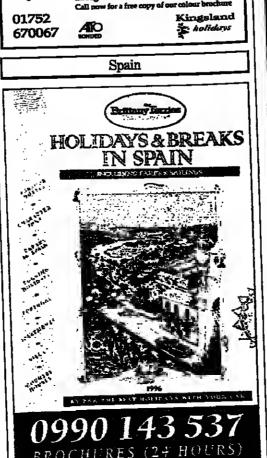
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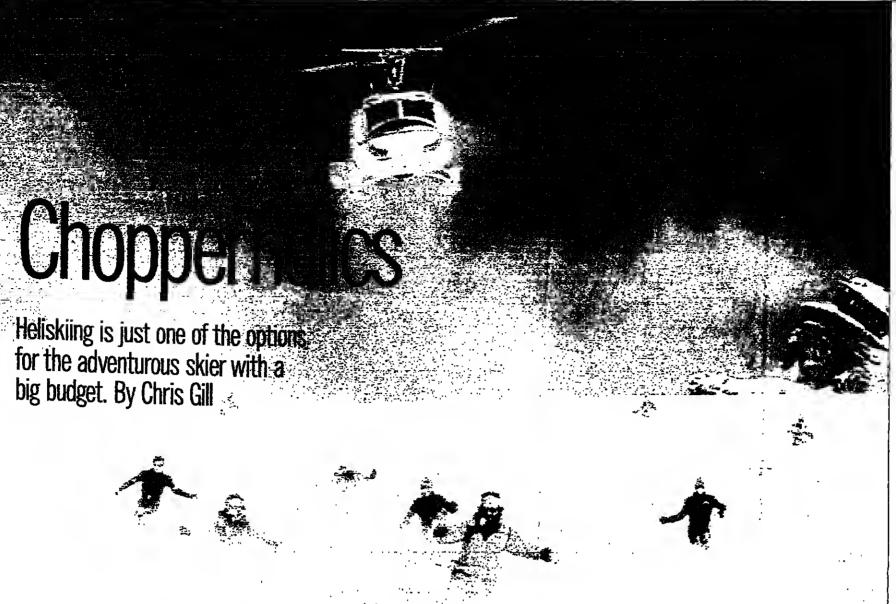
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magine that tonight's lottery has come up with the goods. Coutts is pestering you to open an account, and your skiing plans are no longer limited by money worries. All you have to do now is decide what kind of skiing you'd really like to indulge in. In case you're short of them, here are some ideas.

adventurous skiing and with no interest in apres-ski indulgence, there is no question about what comes top of the agenda: heliskiing in the Canadian rockies. Canadian heliskiing has three key components: helicopters to provide uplift, huge quantities of powder snow, and deserted mountain ranges on which the snow can fall and on which the helicopters can land. This simple recipe produces the closest thing to paradise for a competent skier.

Note that I do not say expert or athletic skier, Helisking need not involve steep slopes and, thanks to the recently introduced "fat" skis, does not even need the level of skill that you would normally associate with off-piste skiing in the Alps. If it did, it would not attract ocarly so many wellheeled middle-aged skiers.

The companies that run these heli operations have their own lodges deep in the Rockies, where you are billeted in comfort but not luxury for the duration of your stay. Each day, the chopper ferries your group of around 10 people up to a remote slope of virgin snow, retrieving you at the end of the run and depositing you For those with a taste for at the top of another. And so on, until you use up your allotted "vertical" - at which point you

> start buying more uplift. At least, that's the theory. It is possible, of course, to encounter a week's blizzards in which the choppers are grounded, and you get a great opportunity to improve your backgammon skills or write the first couple of chapters of your novel. You just have to hope that you don't.

reach for your credit card and

Canadian heliskiing is dominated by two outfits, both with UK agents. CMH operates from eight lodges, mostly in remote settings. Each accommodates 44 skiers - rather like a large catered chalet in the Alps, with open fires to reinforce the mountain lodge atmosphere and com-

Right now, Canadian heliskiiog is a bit of a bargain because of the weak dollar. Reckon on £2,500 to £3,500 a week - more if you do a lot of extra vertical.

Heliskiing is all very well, but

it does put the emphasis very

much on the activity of skiing, and not at all on the pampering that can go with it when the budget allows. For a sharp contrast - the sharpest there is - the topflight hotels of Switzerland take some beating. Opposite this page you'll find a beginners' guide to the smartest hotels in St Moritz - the greatest concentration of upmarket lodging in the known universe. What these hotels offer is not so much luxurious variations on the usual Alpine accommodation as a kind of complete insulation from the harsh winter world outside. Apart from the stunning views from the windows, once inside you could be

almost anywhere. You don't even need to go to the trouble of booking such hotels yourself. Get hold of the Inghams brochure and you'll find not only forting extras such as a sauna, the three central five-stars in St Jacuzzi and in-bouse masseur. Moritz, but also some equally areas of South America, and the

Grand Hotel Zermatterhoff and further afield. Eveo the course. This sort of expeditioo favoured Alpine retreat of the makes most sense if you combine Princess of Hearts, for example the Ariberg in Lech. Half-board high-season one-week packages run from £1.400 to £2,150. Smart hotels mean conforming

- to the expectations of fellow guests if not to the rules of the establishment. Privacy is the key to real self-indulgence, and that means private lodgings with servants attached. And lodgings don't come any more private than Trapper's Cabin, high on the ski slopes near Vail and reachable only by ski or snowcat. The idea here is that you get to spend the night in complete (and splendidly luxurious) isolation, but don't have the chore of self-catering: the chef skis away after dinner. The place sleeps 10, and costs \$550 per person per night.

There is skiing beyond the horizons of Europe and North America, and some of it is very worthwhile. Your newly enlarged budget will oot prevent you exploring the intensive resorts of Japan, the high and scenic ski

Mike Weigele operates from a swanky alternatives in other Swiss heliskilog potential of New bigger central base at Blue River. resorts - notably Zermatt's Zealand-the last two coming on stream during our summer, of it with some regular tourism or visits to long-lost relatives, and could easily soak up several thousands of those spare pounds.

Wherever you decide to blow your winnings, you'll want to look the part. Chain-store clothing won't do. For your hell outing you'll want the toughest "technical" kit in order to look the part perhaps £550 for an outer shell from The North Face and £300 for fleecy layers. For posing in St Moritz, a Bogner one-piece can cost you adything up to £1400.

Helisking: CMH - contact

Powder Skling in North America 0171-736 8191; Mike Wiegele - contact Fresh Tracks 0181-875 9818 or Ski Scott Dunn 0181-767 0202. For an Inghams brochure call 0181-780 4450. More details about Trapper's Cabin near Vail on 00 1 970 845 5788. For kit Information start with Snow + Rock's catalogue - call 01932 569569

## Well, *Hello!* Fancy seeing you here

Who skis where. By Charlotte Packer

A shile Prince Charles and his reunuc remain faithful to Klosters, other members of the Royal family have looked fur-ther afield for their skiing thrills. Diana has discovered the joys of Lech in Austria, and two years ago she kicked up a flurry of excitement when she hit Vail (the cod Swiss skiing village in Col-orado favoured by Tom Hanks and John F Kennedy), and pro-voked much speculation about a romance with a local husinessman. The Princess Royal skis at Morzine in France, and Prince Edward, longtime fan of St Anton, has been seen oo the slopes of Whistler in British Columbia. But for Fergie, the comparative peace at Klosters has become an increasingly attractive alternative to her pre-Andrew baunts of glitzy St Mnritz

The popularity of Swiss ski resorts with the international jet-set has probably more to do with the couotry's excellent hanking facilities than its skiing conditions and Royal patrons. Gstaad is renowned for its unpredictable snowfall and vet hoasts a strong celebrity fol-lowing. David Bowie, Blake Edwards and Julie Andrews. and Roger Moore - none of whom are noted for their skills on the piste - all have homes there. Meaowhile Elizabeth Taylor has graced Zermatt with her presence, though whether she was there for the skiing, the shopping or the socialising is not known.

Italian resorts don't seem to attract many famous faces, but devotees ioclude Julia Carling and Claudia Schiffer, who was apparently assaulted by a man wielding a bobble-hat while she was staying at Colfosco in the Dolomites. For classy après ski sessions, and a spot of alternative royal watching, you could head for Austria where Queen Juliana of the Netherlands and obscure Swedish Royals are said to squeeze into their salopettes and slip on their skis alongside the likes of Peter Gabriel and Kim Wilde.

Over in the States, Aspen has long been the favourite resort of the Hollywood set, and this is the time of year to catch the likes of Jack Nicholson, Don Johnson, Goldie Hawn, Kurt Russell, Cher. Harry Hamlin, Steven Spielberg, Martina Navratilova and Barbra Streisand, on the piste. It was rumoured that Hugh Grant was looking for a second home bere, presumably woo over by talk of Aspen's divine landscape.

Back in the Forties the great and the good of the film industry would have packed their skis and headed for Sun Valley, Idaho. Here you might have gawped at the likes of Gary Cooper, Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn. These days the resort is back in favour with Hollywood and Sigourney Weaver, Arnold Schwarzeoegger, Clint Eastwood and Bruce Willis have all been spotted going through their paces. Should a celeh hunt in Sun Valley prove fruitless, the automated snow system, which is one of the largest in the world, will at least guarantee plenty of snow aod good skiing.

Working its way up in the popularity stakes is Telluride in the spectacular Sao Juao Mouotains of Colorado where Sylvester Stallone bas a ranch, and Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman got hitched five years ago.
The oearby Beaver Creek resnrt is the haunt of Gerald Ford. Dan Quayle, Oprah Winfrey and Brooke Shields.

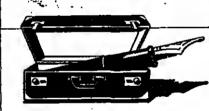
For Ivana Trump, one time Czech National Ski Team member, nowhere beats the Bugaboos in Canada, and she should know as she's skied at all the key European and North American resorts. She, like John Denver and King Juan Carlos of Spain, is a keeo fan of heli-skiing.







The Aspen set (from top): LA Law's Harry Hamlin; Kurt Russell (right) with Danny Sullivan; and Martina Navratilova. Photographs: Colorific!



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This week's advice from our man in the Foreign Office

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Guatemala: "Violeot crime is prevalent throughout Guatemala, especially in and around the capital and other tourist areas. Muggers are often wellarmed. Do oot attempt to resist when being robbed. Register with the : British Embassy on arrival (321601) for an update on the current

Mali: "Mali is relatively trouble-free. Although travel to Mopti, Timbuktu and Gao is possible, caution should be exercised in the area north of . Mopti where banditry is still a risk".

Java: "Indonesia is prone to earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and other, natural disasters. Avoid Mount Merapi and surrounding areas in Central Java. Further information can be obtained from the Directorates of Volcanology at Bandung (022 772606) and Yogyakarta (0274 514180).

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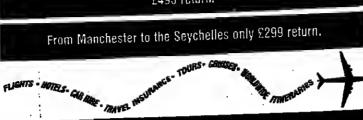
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# Ugly, polluted, corrupt. Amazing

Peking is full of contradictions. Follow the tour guides and you'll miss the point. Teresa Poole should know. She lives there

typical China package tour, Western visitors to the capital city tend to wake up suffering from "Jet-lag Peking duck Syndrome". It marks the first of many victories to be aimed at brushing up the scored by China over unwary foreign tourists.

The idea seems to be to exhaust the city's visitors into submission at an early stage. Within 48 hours of arriving, the tour group will have been marched through Tiananmen Square, around the Forbidden City, up the Great Wall and down again, and herded through the Ming tombs. The Peking duck banquet, in all its greasy splendour, represents the final assault on the innomembers awake the next morning feeling their stamina already drained and wistfully remembering how a trip to Bali.

That is when the more robust might profitably missing the point, Peking's temples cannot compete of-the-art television and with those in South-east Asia, the food on offer to Asian capitals.

Peking is an ugly, polpopulation has a developed sense of disdain for forthe reason to come. For Peking is also, arguably, the most extraordinary capital in the world, the political dictions, conflicts and annoyances, where sometimes it seems that the only Asian value left is an insatiable desire for money.

These are complaints voiced by Pekingers themselves. Of course, visit the Great Wall, but it is the country's most recent history that will leave the deepest national retail spending impression on any visitor who makes a bit of an effort. Most Western tourists arrive already aware of the contradictions. They remember the graphic TV pictures of the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown when the Chinese army stormed through Peking killing unarmed protesters. Yet, since then, the "story" from China has been one of unprecedented economic improvement, streets jammed with imported saloon cars, a real-estate development bonanza, and an export industry that has suddenly put "Made in China" labels in products

across the world. That contrast is precisely what makes Peking such an foreigners, for instance, complain heatedly about the traffic. Yet watch, for a moment, bow many of the fanciest cars carry the telltale white number-plates unidentifiable mouthful.

n about day three of which identify them as military or People's Armed Police vehicles. Marvel at the city's traffic police wbo. about six weeks ago, metamorphosed overnight into human robots. It was part of a propaganda exercise image of the police. Now they stand on their podiums, choreographed into perfect uniformity, never an arm bent out of line.

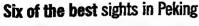
It is in Pcking's lanes - or hutongs - that you can city. Around Houhai Park, or to the east of Dongdan shopping street, you can wander down any lane, and the challenges of modernising such a city immediately become apparent. These are the traditional cents abroad. Tour group courtyard bomes, picturesque from the outside but on the inside usually desperately crowded and lacking in such luxuries as they spurned the option of toilets. Look into the yards to see the bizarre mixture that makes up many familv's lives: the inevitable decide that a tour-group bicycles, a wall of cabbages holiday in China is rather stored during the winter, and in the main room statekaraoke equipment.

On a Sunday, head for tourists is mostly dreadful, and there is none of the haps Beihai or the Temple opulence of many other of Heaven, for the most romantic view of Peking life. Soon after dawn, blueluted, corrupt city whose suited old men will arrive, carrying their songbirds in cages which they bang in eigners. Yet that is part of the trees. For bours they play chess, or sit idly talking. Throughout the early morning, local Pekingers turn up to take their daily centre of a country that 16 exercises. In my local, Ritan years ago decided to re- Park, old women exercise invent itself using a their brains (they say) by melange of Communist walking backwards, Chicontrol and capitalist free- nese of all ages practice for-all. Off the tourist trail, shadow boxing and other life is a bundle of contra- martial arts, and one group of middle-aged meet for disco keep fit.

This is, of course, not the modern Peking hurtling down the expressway of economic reform. For that, visit a big shopping centre (try the Landao department store or the Hongqiao indoor market), and see a spree in action. Wander through the outdoor mar-ket of "Silk Alley" and see if you can resist the advances of the hawkers selling pirated CD-Roms from southern China for a fraction of the cost back bome. Bravely go where few Westerners dare to tread - a Chinese karaoke lounge, and witness the major national pastime.

not retreat to some hotel restaurant where the menu is printed in English. The Chinese, for all their nationalistic fervour, are at their most tolerant in situations involving food. Pick any brightly lit restaurant, order a round of Peking draught interesting city. Most beers (Beijing jia pi), and foreigners, for instance, point to a few key words in the Chinese phrase book. It probably taste awful, but the look on everyone's faces will be worth every

If it all gets too much, do



The Great Wall: Not to be missed. Those with sturdy legs and knees should head for the wall at Simatai, while anyone who might need a cable-car ascent is best off at Mutianyu.

The Summer Palace: On the north-west side of Peking, tha gardens are beautiful in summer and winter. On the return journey into the city, try to stop off at some of the traditional villages near the old city moat.

Mao's Mausoleum: He looks like wax, and from time to time there are reports that he is leaking, but the Chairman's body stays where it is because it would be far too politically sensitive to move him. You can stock up on tacky Mao memprabilia by the exit.

Prince Gong's Palace: An unusually quiet retreat north of the Forbidden City. The gardens are very peaceful, and the palace gives some idea of what life was like for the well-connected before 1949.

The Pearl Market: Situated on the third floor of the Hong Qiao indoor market, on the north-east comer of the Temple of Heaven, Head for a vendor called Ms Bai at stalls 113 and 123, provider of freshwater pearls and semi-precious jewellery to Mrs Thatcher (complete with framed photograph).

Chaowai Antiques Market: Near the north-west corner of Ritan Park, these two warehouses offer a selection of Chinese knick-knacks, and a few real antiques. Never mind if it is a modern copy or an outright fake, just bargain very hard. (True antiques cannot be exported from China without the necessary documentation.)



glimpse the old world of the Never out of line: 'about six weeks ago, Peking's traffic police were turned into human robots'

Photo: Greg Baker/AP

### How to get there

British Airways and Air China fly non-stop twice a week etween London Heathrow and Peking, but the lowest fares are available from discount agents for travel on other airlines. For example, Campus Travel (0171-730 B111) has a fare of £493, including tax, on Air France from London, Birmingham, Edinburgh or Manchester via Paris.

### How about by rail?

Regular trains operate between Moscow and Peking, with connections from western Europe and to Hing Kong. Most travellers make the week-long journey only in one direction, and fly the other. A basic round trip comprising a flight from London to Moscow, train to Peking and onwards to Hong Kong, with a flight back to London, would cost around £750 through companies such as Bridge the World (0171-911 0900), Regent Holidays (0117 921 1711) and the Russia Experience (0181-566 8846). There are endless stopover possibilities, but these can add substantially

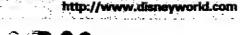
### How tangled is the red tape?

British passport holders need a Chinese visa, which is most easily obtained through the China Travel Service, 7 Upper St Martin's Lane WC2H 9DL (0171-836 9911); this agency charges £10 on top of the normal £25 fee. Allow a week for processing. You can obtain a visa more quickly in Hong Kong if you are travelling via the territory, and pay only HK\$100 (about £8). There have been some reports that the documents of British visitors are being checked especially assiduously by Chinese officials because of the political differences over

### What about flights to Hong Kong?

Air fares are generally lower to Hong Kong than direct to China. STA Travel (0171-361 6262) has a fare of £487 nn Emirates via Dubai. Numerous travel agencies in Hong Kong make arrangements for China: Phoenix Services (00 852 2722 7378), based in Kowloon, will arrange tickets and accommodation in China.





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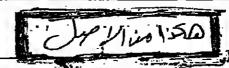
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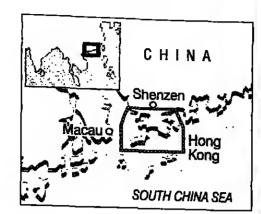
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# There's the sensible route to Macau

...and then there's the route that Simon Calder took

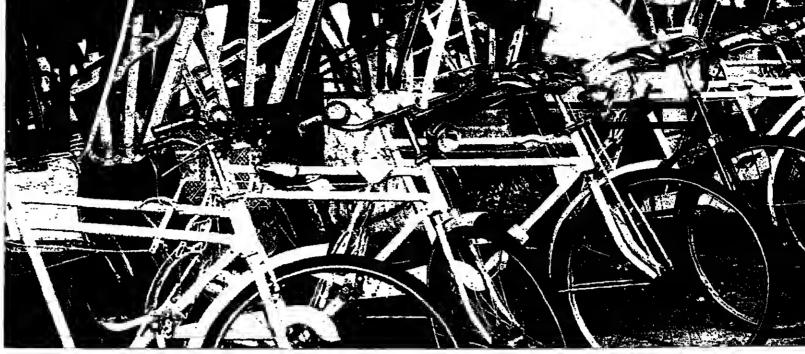


Once you've reached Macau, trishaws are your best bet for transport Photograph:

he opening of the new airport in Macau means there are now two sensible ways to get to the former Portuguese colony 60 miles due west of Hong Knng: by sca, or by air, I went by land. You might possess a residue of classroom French and German, a smattering of holiday Spanish, and even have mastered the Cyrillic characters of the Russian alabate but when went and the company of the Russian alabate but when went and the company of the Russian alabate but when went and the company of the Russian alabate but when went and the company of the Russian alphabet, but when you cross the thin red line from Hong Kong into China, you become a mute stranger in the strangest of lands.

Hong Kong's suburban rail network ends at Lo Wu, a small, sweaty settlement that would be wholly unremarkable were it not the front balf of the main valve between the planet's most populous country and the rest of the world. Every few minutes, a train wheezes to a halt and disgorges hundreds more passengers. Hop over a series of official hurdles, and you suddenly find yourself ejected into the middle of a seething city. From being the cosseted tourist a few min-

utes ago, you are transformed into an alien. All the clues that you normally use to orient yourself are useless in this part of the Orient. Look for a landmark or a street name to get your bearings, and all you see is a scrabble of graceful but impenetrable Chinese characters. Even the sun shelters behind a layer of high-



octane smog, denying you the chance of get-ting a directional fix. The local characters sipping tea in the cafés are used to wide-eyed backpackers carving a trail of bewilderment through Shenzhen, so you barely merit distraction from the synchronised pecking at snacks. Elevenses already, and you still have to cross China.

Yet all you are really trying to do by tcatime is to clip a tiny corner of a huge country, a journey of no more than 100 miles. And to make life easy, this is the most prosperous and advanced part of China. Shenzhen City is the high-rise huh of a Special Economic Zone that borders Hong Kong and thrives on the same enterprise culture. Sooner or later, a besuited businessman will take pity on the confused tourist and steer you towards the right bus.

At about the point on the bus ride when you guess that the broad city street must finally dissolve into a country road through profoundly green fields - it accelerates into a motorway, speeding straight to Guangzhou. The route to Macau, though, slips off to the left and the town of Humen. You get tipped out of the bus into the care of another well-spoken entrepreneur, who quits his mobile phone for long enough to steer you in the direction of the town's official

tourist attraction: the opium museum.

Compared with the attractions en route, the historic monument of Human is something of a side-show. But as the clock on Britain's lease of the New Territories ticks towards its 1997 expiry, the site acquires poignancy. In 1839, an uprising against the British drug barons forced them to hand over a huge consignment of opium, which was burnt on this very riverbank. But four years later the British forced China to allow them to build a fort on the site, to help them re-establish the trade in opium that made rule from London so hard to shake off.

Any traces of Anglicisation were extinguished during Mao's rule, so again you must seek help to set you on the next stage of the journey. A single bus, it appears, will take you almost to the frontier of Macau.

Buses get a poor press compared with the praise heaped upon trains, but this one would be a contender for any collection of Great Bus Journeys of the World. Not for the vehicle itself, a rudimentary beast that had clearly done this thousands of times before. Nor for the roadside scenery, a pleasant but unexceptional collage of agriculture and activity. The thing that makes this an amazing journey is the crossing of the Pearl River.
The inevitable new bridge over this three-mile

The last leg of the bus ride whisks you down the far side of the estuary, the skyline climbing

face of the muddy Pearl.

divide will put an end to a startling piece of mar-

itime theatre. The road suddenly ends in a delta

of slip roads, each threading up to a boarding

ramp. A fleet of smoke-belching ferries, squat

and ugly, perform the most graceful marine

dance. They defuly side-step one another as they

shuttle hack and forth, each one pausing only

long enough to roll off one cargo of buses and

trucks and roll on the next. From the deck,

make the most of this unexpected boat trip to survey the frenzied shuffle and admire the fine

embroidery that the wakes create on the sur-

as you approach Macau; buildings rise in proportion to the proximity of capitalism. The bus terminates some way from the border, but the improbably bulky luggage of your fellow passengers marks them out as transit travellers. You

follow the procession of stripy red/blue bags hulging with cheap exports to the frontier.

Departure from the People's Republic is smoother than arrival, allowing you to slalom rather than stutter past the bureaucracy. You emerge into a strangely familiar post-colonial cityscape, joyful to be a regular tourist once more. Never has a former Portuguese outpost

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### The Costa Rica Wanderer

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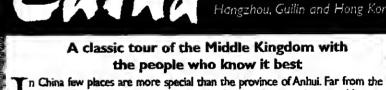
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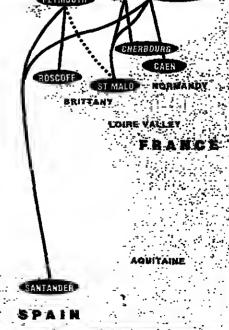
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# motoring



The British car had a wretched 100th hirthday. The misguided Coventry Cathedral service was cleverly hijacked by the naked body of the environmental campaigner Lucy Pearce, shortly before she returned to an anti-road protest in Devon (by car).

Endless stories ran about how many people had been killed/maimed/poisoned by cars. A Guardian columnist, while admitting that most people liked their cars, said that our transport future was post-car, "in which cleaner, well-designed public transport can whisk us around and between cities". Really? And what happens if you don't live in a city? Even the right-wing Speciator, whose principles should be perfectly in line with car use, has started a "Not Motoring" column.

Yet of course the car will survive the next 100 years. Private transport of 2096 will. undoubtedly, be nothing like that inefficient tin box parked outside your home. That is what the anti-car brigade fail to understand: they underestimate just how much better private transport can and will get. It will, hecause it must.

The more rahid environmentalists argue that because private transport is highly pol-luting, it is best to return to what we had before: public transport, suitably modernised, supplemented by hicycles. No doubt better buses and trains, and hicycles, will play a hig part. And in some areas, such as cities, perhaps they should play the only cities, perhaps they should play the only part. But does anybody seriously think British people will happily return en masse to queuing at bus stops? We had that once, and rejected it when cars became affordable.

Because people will always want private transport, so the car industry will provide it. And because people will demand it, those future cars will be clean and safe. The petrol internal combustion engine will continue to

internal comhustion engine will continue to get cleaner, hecause it must. By the turn of the century it should even start to purify polluted inner-city air. But we'll have to wait for the wholesale use of natural gas or similar (in 15 to 20 years probably) to get massive air quality improvements. Cars will also become different from each other. Within 20 years, they will not all be boxes of steel, which nowadays differ principally in styling. Cars will come in all shapes and sizes and will he hoth lighter and stronger than those today, and bespoke city cars, twin- or even single-seaters, may be a feature.

To campaign against the car as an institu-tion is a mistake. There will always be private transport. in some form. The campaign should be to make the car safer and cleaner; to revolutionise it, not to kill it.

How to get ahead in advertising

The car may be ordinary but the campaign is extraordinary.
That'll be the Daewoo. By Matthew Gwyther

will try anything to sell cars. The latest "shirt-off-my-hack" marketing wheeze from Korean con-tender Daewoo is to offer 100 free vehicles to punters who can come up with the most gory tales of maltreatment at the bands of other producers. Customer care, runs Daewoo's message, is our business - we want to learn from rivals' mistakes.

Our aim, it says, is to be the M&S of the car world.

Right from its launch into the UK last April, Daewoo has adopted a novel approach to shifting metal, The company organised a huge market research exercise to find 200 "guinea pigs" who would each receive a free car for a year to help Daewoo tailor its service and products. Around 180,000 hopefuls applied and each was sent a detailed questionaire to

Car salesmen bave rarely enjoyed a good press down the years - the snake in the sheepskin easing around his forecourt and off-loading his "lovely little runners" is one of the oldest stereotypes going. Even so, Daewoo's findings were spectacularly damning: customers apparently rated car salesmen "marginally higher than serial killers". Pushy, intimidating and patronising were some of the kinder adjectives, 63 per cent felt they had been worked over in a "hard sell" and 78 per cent found they had been treated worse after huying the car than when making the original deci-

It is hardly news that the weak link in keeping the customer satisfied has always been the dealers rather than those who actually make the cars.

n a slow market, manufacturers discover their likes and dislikes about Few cars rust or rattle any more and bow buyers are treated is fast becoming a vital point of differentiation.

BMW, for example, cottoned on to this some while hack.

"Most manufacturers bave been pouring money into the dealer net-work," says Patrick Farrell, Daework, says rainck rarren. Dae-woo's marketing director who was poached from Rover. "It's all per-suasion and cajoling but a lot of effort has been wasted. I can remember amazing tales from my time at Rover. For example the occasion when a purchaser took a new car away with just a cup of petrol in it, went on to the motorway and ran out of fuel. He phoned the dealer who charged a £70 call out fee when be arrived with the

To avoid any such nightmares Dae-woo decided it would keep close control of the process by trying direct selling. The company ditched the idea of a franchised dealer network and set up its own permanent car supermarkets called Motor Shows and Car Centres, a bighly expensive exercise. "We knew right from the start that we'd touched a nerve in the UK market," says Mr Farrell. "When you say to the average Brit that you "cut out the middle man" it tends to work. We're very into bargains here."

Having publicly clambered aboard the customer care bandwagon with a totally unknown and untried product, Daewoo knew that it would have to provide an after-sales service second lo none. Each car came with a three year warranty, three years' free servicing with home pick up and courtesy car, RAC membership, 12 months road tax, no delivery fee and a 30 day money-back offer. The only catch was that there was to be no haggling over

To hroadcast its arrival, Daewoo hired Duckworth, Finn, Gruhh, Waters, an advertising agency based in Soho, London. They came up with a quirky strategy notable for a lack of glamorous women, long shots of winding roads or tyres dramatically spitting gravel. To overcome the "Daewho?" problem it adopted the self-deprecating biggest car company you've never beard of slogan.
The latest television effort has an elderly lady in a crash belimet running into a wall.

Daewoo was received with considerable cynicism in the trade. However doing things in such an uncon-ventional fashion appears to have worked. Daewoo is the most successful car launch ever, going from zero to 13.169 sales in eight months. This makes the company 17th in the Proton driver.

list of 43 manufacturers and already ahead of well established companies such as Mazda. Campaign. the advertising industry magazine, recently awarded Daewoo its Advertiser of

the Year prize.
It's maybe as well that all the attention has been focused on how Daewoo sells its cars rather than the vehicles themselves. The two Daewoo models on offer - the Espero and Nexia - are slightly frumpy re-workings of the age-old Cavalier and Astra which have been loaded with desirable extras such as air conditioning. Daewoo make no bones about the product. "It's a bread and butter car." says Patrick Farrell.
"Basic transport for people who don't care about the emotional side of motoring. Our purchasers are rational whereas a large number of

new car hayers aren't."

So who has been seduced by the Daewoo message? What is the average customer profile? Charlie Dawage the customer profile? son, the account director at Duck-worth. Finn, Grubb, Waters has a pretty good idea in his mind's eye: "I suppose a teacher with two kids who is bright but not rolling in it. They don't see a car as a status symbol. Canny, careful folk maybe, but not quite as thick skinned as a Lada or

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# A way out of the trap

Builders are persuading owners to part exchange their difficult-to-sell houses for new ones, just like trading in a car. So why aren't estate agents doing the same? By Anne Spackman

state agents may wince at the idea, but they could well profit from being more like the second-hand car dealers to whom they are often disparagingly compared. If you rwant a new car you are very likely to trade your old one in part-exchange. If you want a new house, it is increasingly possible to strike a similar deal with a builder. Why then, in the second-hand property market, where one third of all sales collapse and buyers find themselves stuck in long chains, don't estate agents adopt the same tactic?

Some already are. Halifax Property Services, for example, will allow their branches to take a house in partexchange as long as it fits certain criteria. But they are not exactly shouting this from the rooftops, Meanwhile, independent agents cling loyally to the tradition that they are acting as agents for the seller, for whom they must achieve the best possible price, rather than act-ing to achieve a deal and get the whole system working.

Part-exchange has proved to he a cru-cial weapon in the house builder's armoury over the last few years. Many expect it to continue beyond the recession. It attracts buyers who might otherwise ignore a development and offers a solution to the many thousands of homeowners who find it hard to sell. They may lose a hit on the price of their old home and be forced to pay full whack for the new one, but that has always been the deal with cars and thousands of drivers have felt it was a price worth paying.

The ground rules for part-exchange are common to most builders. They will only take on houses worth less than the one they are selling and in most cases the minimum price gap is about 30 per cent. So for a new house costing £150,000, they may take on a £100,000 house in exchange, but not one worth £200.000. Few builders will touch any property with structural defects, or those previously owned by a local authority or part of a sheltered housing scheme. They also prefer to take on homes in the area of their new development. Barratt and Try Homes are two of the few huilders willing to do partexchanges across country.

Terry and Susan Maskell had the sort of complicated arrangement many builders might baulk at. They had two houses to sell, one near Glasgow, bought when Mr Maskell's joh moved north, and a house in Heathfield, Sussex, where his family stayed. Try Homes took on both in exchange for the Maskells huying a new five-bedroom house in Heathfield. They sold the Maskells' old Sussex house immediately.

"The convenience factor decided us." Mr Maskell said, "even though we were potentially losing a few thousand pounds. Also, if we hadn't done it we might have lost this house and there are very few houses like this around here."

Brenda Grover and Tom McGuire from Reading did a typical part-exchange deal. They traded in their £36,000 one-hedroom flat – which had been on the market for 18 months - for a three-bedroom house costing £104,995 on Barratt's Saxon Chase development at nearby Caversham, "It was our only way out of the trap we found ourselves in," said Brenda Grover. "Without part-exchange we wouldn't bave been able to move.

But not all buyers who opt for part-exchange are io such desperate circumstances. For many it is an option of choice, Sue and Darren Marsball partexchanged their one-bedroom flat in Brighton for a two-bedroom Barratt house in Hove without trying to sell. "We were convinced we would not have much luck trying to sell our flat on the open market," said Darren. "It could bave taken years."

David and Sue Blair were looking to trade up from their two-bedroom terrace in Taunton but found nothing they liked on the second-hand market. They narrowed their choice down to two new developments and rejected the one that did not offer part-exchange. "We'd only bad our house on the market for a few weeks," said r. The p deal a lot easier and quicker. It was hasslefree and - most important of all - we liked the house itself."

The Blairs' home was on the market for £47,000. When Admiral Homes accepted it in part-exchange it was valued by two estate agents, including the of part-exchange. Last year the company one who had originally heen selling the sold 3,200 second-hand homes, the same incentives we offer huyers of new

GA

0336



Brenda Grover and Tom McGuire outside the new Barratt bome for which they traded in their one-bedroom flat

house. This time he valued it at £45,000 as the average estate agent. Half of all "for a quick sale". The Blairs received 97 per cent of the valuation from Admiral and were able to negotiate a few thou-saod pounds off the £84,950 asking price of the new house.

The issue of part-exchange valuations is a thorny one on which the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors is about to produce new guidelines. The key to the part-exchange deal is the price. If a huilder wants a house valued "to sell

quickly", it normally means knocking a there is the benefit of saving on estate age ney fees, which for an average house means around £1,200, but they still have to look at the sums and decide whether or not it is a good deal.

Barratt is the most confident exponent

London Property

their sales now involve part-exchange deals - even on their most up-market developments such as Royal Thames Crescent in Chiswick, west London, where the houses cost more than £400,000.

In the case of Brenda Grover and Tom McGuire, their home had been on the market 18 months and Barratt sold it within a week without lowering the price. David Pretty, chairman of Barratt result it sells quickly." Southern Region, says it is not just a technique. "Our offices are open seven days a week, unlike most estate agents," he said, "If we can't sell someone a new house we will try to sell them a secondhand one. If it's looking a hit tired, we might do it up. We get it surveyed. And the huyer can take advantage of all the down, it will be interesting to see whether

homes, like help with their deposit." It certainly seems to work. Ben Smith,

who runs Halifax Property Services in north and west Leeds, sells plenty of homes that builders have taken in partexchaoge. The property details are branded with the builder's logo and the fact that it is a part-exchange is flagged up. "Buyers see this as a house that has got to be sold," Mr Smith said. "They know it will be keenly priced and as a

So will the practice extend to estate gency in general? In the United States realtors act for the deal rather than for one of the partners involved. In practice many British estate agents do the same. But the long-established names feel their reputation depends on maintaining the status quo. If volumes of sales stay some decide to break rank.

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### For what it's worth

Despite more than 13,000 new homes coming on to the market over the next five years, London is beading for a property shortage, according to a Savilis development survey. It predicts that unless 5,000 extra bomes are built, prices in the most popular areas of the capital will carry on the rise that has seen some bomes go up in value by 50 per cent in the last three years. London's prime areas - particularly Kensington, Chelsea and Knightsbridge - bave little room for further expansion. Prices in Hammersmith and Fulham are expected to rise as a result of the local council's clampdown on private building. Savills expects the "Midtown" area of Clerkenwell and Holborn to turn from a commercial into an increasingly residential area. But it warns that 70 per cent of all new homes are planned for Docklands, where over-supply threateos to push prices down.

### Who's moving

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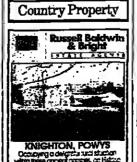
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return to its

former glories

you have found the key to achieving nomic indicator on which the authorities choose to put heavy emphasis in framing monetary policy will immediately cease to behave in its traditional manner.

But until recently, not so many people were aware that something similar applies in the stock market, too. The latest example of this phenomenon is the so-called "small companies" effect. Any finance text book will tell you how one of the "anomalies" in stock market behaviour is the tendancy of small companies to outperform larger ones, even after allowing for the additional risk involved.

The reason this is an anomaly is that, according to the theory of efficient markets, it is not a phesmall companies consistently pro- was published this week.

There are times the stock market vided what academics call "excess can be a tough and demanding returns" (ie they outperformed the taskmaster. Just when you think that market as a whole on a risk-adjusted basis), then you would expect supabove-average performance, your ply and demand to see to it that this fail-safe method suddenly ceases to work. In economics, they have known for years about Goodhart's lead to smaller companies being Law, which lays down that any eco-valued more highly-until the scope for outperformance had in effect

> So much for the theory, which can be best summed up in its vernacular form as "there is no such thing as a free lunch in the stock market". The reason it is worth recalling now is that the small company effect, which was an observable pbenomenon, seems to have disappeared in the last few years.

The evidence for this comes from Hoare Govett Smaller Companies Index, a review of the way that the smallest quoted companies on the London Stock Exchange perform over time. It has been compiled for a number of years by two highly regarded academics at London Business School, Elroy Dimson and nomenon you would expect to see recurring for any length of time. If review of the index's performance



### JONATHAN DAVIS INVESTMENTS

What it shows is that the smaller companies effect is now in full-scale retreat. In the 41 years since 1955, when the data series began, the Smaller Companies Index has outperformed the All-Share Index return over the whole period is just under 4 per cent per annum. The figures are: All-Share - annualised total return from 1955 to 1995 inclusive 14.2 per cent; Smaller Companies - 18 per cent. To provide a statistically fair comparison, the figures

been reinvested.

But the experience of recent years has been very different. The stock-brokers Hoare Govett started to publish the index on a regular basis in the mid-1980s. For a while all went well. Smaller companies continued to outperform in 1987 and 1988. But in the next four years smaller companies underperformed bigger rivals, and while 1993 was a good year for the minnows, last year was one of the worst of all time. The combinations. total return on smaller companies in last year's bull market was nearly 10 per cent below that achieved by the All-Sbare Index.

Just as interesting is what has happened to the volatility of smaller eursing the market's fickleness. company sbares. Volatility, the extent to which prices fluctuate 29 times, frequently by a handsome around their long-term average, is margin. The cumulative excess a measure of risk. Over the whole period 1955 to 1995, smaller companies not only outperformed their bigger brethren, but did so without involving investors in any significant extra risk. In fact, they were if anything less volatile. As long as investors hold a diversified portfo-gloomy, it is worth keeping the

combine capital gains and dividend lio of small company shares, the income, which is assumed to have promise of the investor's Holy Grail: higher return for lower risk.

But even that part of the story seems to be losing its lustre. The volatility of the smaller company index has also increased, to the point where it is marginally more volatile than the All-Share index. So now the prospectus seems to be: a lower return and higher risk. That, if it turns out to be new trend, is hardly the most appealing of

Spare a thought too for all the fund management companies that have launched unit trusts and investment trusts to cash in on the "small companies effect". They must be although they cannot be entirely surprised at the turn of events. The fact that the effect has become so well known must be, as efficient markers theory suggests, one of the reasons it no longer works. Another explanation is that smaller companies are better researched and easier to

trade than they were years ago. But before anyone gets too

business in perspective. All such statistical exercises are just that. The composition of the smaller companies index has changed dramatically over the years, reflecting changes in our corporate landscape, so comparisons need to be treated with care. The arrival of the privatised utilities, for example, has tilted the performance scales towards larger companies. The smaller companies index is also relatively top-heavy in sectors such as property and con-struction, which have struggled.

In other words, it is not difficult to find explanations for the reversal of fortune. Reading between the lines of Dimson and Marsh's latest offering, it is possible to deduce that one hright spark for the sector may be the prospect of takeover activity. The current wave of bids and deals has been largely confined to higger companies. History suggests it may be the smaller companies' turn nest.

But the main worry about the "small companies effect" must be that its disappearance is not widely enough known. Only when we have read its obituary several times can we be sure that it is finally about to return to its former glories.

# The grand-daddy of all pensions

Should everybody in work be made to contribute to a national pension scheme? By James Patterson

employed or self-employed, earning above a minimum weekly amount, will be required by law to contribute to a national pension scheme, unless they are already a member of an occupational pension scheme or are paying at least equivalent contributions into a personal pension.

This is one of the important recom-mendations published this week by the Retirement Income Inquiry - an inde-pendent body sponsored by the National Association of Pension Funds, which for the past two years has been reviewing pension provision in the UK.

It has received a cautious welcome from both sides of the political fence. but could well cause a storm when the implications for individuals and employers are fully understood.

The scheme would rapidly replace Serps, the cost of which falls largely on the taxpayer. But the prospects of a third compulsory deduction from pay packets on top of income tax and National Insurance may well be unpopular with ho presently r on state pensions.

Contributions would be 4.8 per cent of earnings - the present Serps rebate - between an upper and lower limit on earnings and be split between employee and employer in the case of the employed. But the inquiry also recommends that this contribution rate should be progressively increased to reach a

employed or self-employed, earnhas been put forward as the minimum rate required if individuals are to receive a pension of 50 per cent of earnings. An additional contribution of up to 0.7 per cent of earnings would also be needed to fund the transition period while Serps was being phased out.

Individuals could still contribute to personal pension schemes but the national pension scheme could well reduce the role of portable schemes hecause few employers contribute to employees' personal pension schemes but they would be compelled to contribute to the national scheme.

Contributions paid by each individual would be invested in a variety of assets. mainly equities, accumulated in separate individual funds until retirement when the accumulated value would be used to huy an annuity to provide the pension for the individual.

As with portable pension schemes, the ultimate pension received by individuals from the proposed national pension scheme cannot be guaranteed. amount will depend of assets (presumably the investment management will be delegated to professionals if only to avoid problems with the Financial Services Act) and annuity rates at the time of retirement, over

which trustees have no control. This is in contrast to Serps and company pension schemes, where the penmore realistic rate that would provide sion ultimately received depends only on an adequate pension. A contribution an individual's earnings during his or her

working life and is therefore indepen-dent of stock market/property market performance and of interest rates.

The pitfalls in a scheme dependent on investment performance are many and often unseen until too late. The ultimate pension received by individuals in similar circumstances will vary simply because investment returns were different over their working lives and, equally important, annuity rates were

different when the pension was bought. The objections to the national pension scheme from individuals could well include being made to save towards their pension, particularly if the contrihution rate is high and they are under financial pressure such as meeting mortgage commitments, having no control over the investment of those contribu-tions and experiencing a fall in value when the equity market falls, and being utterly confused over buying the annuity at retirement. Men may object to women receiving equal annuities because women live longer than men.

If the ultimate pension from the heme turns out to be cessful the trustees are in investing the low at a particular time because of change the laws of economics. Higher adverse investment performance and/or low annuity rate, there is almost certain to be a massive outcry to make up those pensions from the public purse.

Finally, the inquiry is proposing to end payment of tax-free cash sums from pension arrangements - a logical proposal, but in itself certain to ensure total hostility by the public.

This scheme will do nothing for exist-

ing pensioners on low pensions. The inquiry proposes therefore that there should be a first-tier assured pension equal to the present basic state pension plus a top-up pension to bring the total to a minimum of 20 per cent of national average earnings. This would represent

the absolute minimum pension payable. The hasic element of this pension would be paid to all. But the top-up would be means-tested and progressively cut the higher an individual's over-all income (capital would be ignored). This proposal may meet equally violent opposition on the grounds of meanstesting, though everyone would have to provide income details before receiving the pension. Any reduction on the topup will also upset people who claim that, because they have paid the full National Insurance contributions, they are enutled to the full pension from the state. Assured pensions will also mean substantially higher National Insurance contributions.

Someone, however, has to grasp the nettle and educate the public in the hasic lesson that nobody can repeal or pensions can only be paid for hy the working population whether through higher taxes, or accepting lower earnings so that equity dividends can be increased to pay pensions, or both. The afternative is lower benefits.

Many countries are finding this a very difficult message to get across to a hostile public. But it has got to be done, and the sooner the better.



Pension-bound: The idea of compulsory national scheme has won a cautious welcome from both sides of politics





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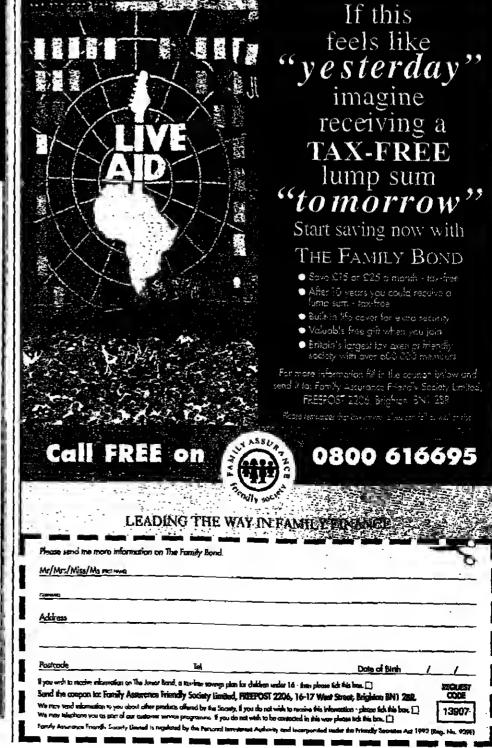
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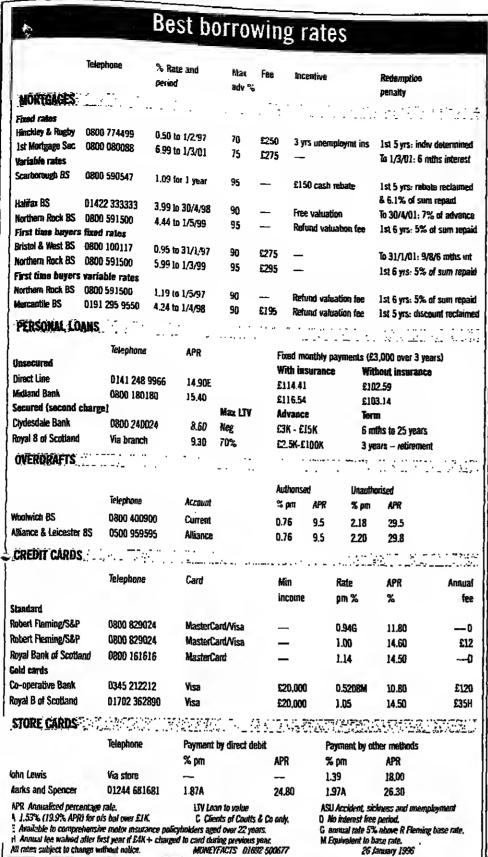
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FEAR OF FINANCE **Clifford German** 



It is generally a had sign when no one wants money, and no one seems to want to pay for last six months expectations have swung from an imminent increase to further falls in base rates. Building societies in particular are again shaviog mortgage rates, especially on fixed-rate loans. simply to try to get their money out on loan before rates fall further. Some of the societies targeted hy speculators opening accounts are stuffed with cash they cannot use in their mortgage business.

societies are busy cutting rates on deposit accounts and the rush to put rollover money into fixedrate Tessas has been so heavy that the hest offers their offers with lower

Rates oo guaranteed annual and monthly income bonds have also dropped perceptibly io the past week alone, and savers who were grumhling ahout the poor returns on their money last year will be eveo more disgruntled oow. The benefits promised to savers from a reductioo and dividends from 25 from April has already beeo eaten up.

Eveo the National Sav- retail trade so far.

ings movement is in on the act. The demand for Pensioners' Boods paying fixed returns for five it at the moment. In the years has been so brisk since the Chancellor cut the age qualification from 65 to 60 in the Budget that he has been able io cui the return on future sales from 7.5 per cent to 7 per cent.

There is also no doubt that the Treasury will save money as a result of the reshuffle to Premium Bonds and prizes. Although the public is invited to focus on the fact that the number of £1m prizes is not being reduced, the fact is the Banks and huilding total prize fund is heing cui from 5.2 per cent to 4.75 per cent of the money in the pool.

There is, of course, no guarantee that rates will oot rise again within the have been fully sub- five-year time-frame of scribed and providers most fixed-rate offers, have been able to replace and for savers the message is clear. The rewards for taking a giveo amount of risk by investing io fixed-ioterest securities, unit trusts, investment trusts and shares, especially inside a tax-free PEP package, are on the increase.

loterest rates io the UK after deducting inflatioo bave been uocomfortably high for years but a fall in demand for io the tax rate oo interest credit is almost always a bad sigo. Even the brisk per ceot to 20 per cent demand for coosumer credit does oot seem to have dooe much for

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# New plans to care for the elderly are unlikely to keep the wolf from your door

By Clifford German

future of long-term care for the elderly announced by the Chancellor in the last Budget is likely to be published by Easter. But the proposals are unlikely to take effect before April 1997 at the earliest, and any hopes they will guarantee com-fortable middle-class families against the need to sell their parental homes to pay for care are likely to be dashed.

The proposed partnership between pri-vate insurers and the state to underwrite the cost of care io a nursing home is likely to be targeted firmly at families with assets of up to £60,000, including the family home, who cannot be expected to buy loog-term care insurance from their own

long-term care in the insurance industry dollar guarantees - as used in several American states, notably Coooccticut and the time limit scheme that operates in New York state.

worth of private insurance protection will be able to ring-feoce that amount of assets and claim support from the state once they have used the proceeds of their insurance and run their own assets down to the existing level of protected assets which £150 a month, and a woman £17,500, or appropriate product.

dividuals to insure their care costs in full for a specific period, three years in New York, after which the state will take over

the full cost of further care indefinitely. Oliver Heald, a junior minister at the DSS, went to the US last month to study the respective schemes, leading figures in the private health-care insurance business are being consulted and a briefing paper is being prepared for circulation to all MPs.

Lifetime Care, the market leader in the infant private long-term care insurance market, believes the approved UK scheme will combine the characteristics of the two

The two front-ruoning schemes which the Department of Health and experts oo cover for a minimum period in a oursing afford it. In the past five years only around home, and that would estitle them, once the policy had been exhausted, to claim support from the state or local aothority as sooo as their own savings had been run down to the guaranteed level.

The average stay in a oursing home is Dollar-for-dollar schemes work oo the only two or three years, but the state guarbasis that individuals who buy, say, \$50,000 antee would allow insurance companies to reduce significantly the premiums 00 private policies and make private insurance more affordable.

The coosultation document on the that figure. Time limit schemes require infuture of long-term care for the elderly dividuals to insure their care costs in full But in order to keep down the cost of the gered by medical oced. Even with state But in order to keep down the cost of the safety net to the taxpayer, state support would be means-tested and the qualifying level at which individuals could claim from the state would be capped at around £60,000 of assets.

That level will be chosen to represent. the value of the average house. Investors with larger assets would not be eligible for a pension. In order to fund a wider takethe support on the grounds that they could Peter Gatenby, appointed actuary at PPP afford their own policies or their own care still be necessary for many individuals to

offer any tax concessions to policyholders to help them pay their policy premiums, and the industry recognises that very few Individuals who take out a private of the individuals who are likely to need afford it. In the past five years only around 9,000 policies have been sold, two thirds of them by PPP.

Premiums oo existing long-term care policies are substantial. For £1,000 a month of support indexed for up to 5 per cent annual inflation, a male aged 45 would pay a lump sum of £6,436, or £30 a month, until a claim is made; for a woman the cost would be £11,310, or £36 a mooth. At 60 a man would pay £8,695, or £53 a mooth, a woman £14,640, or £62 a mooth; and at The protection would be additional to 80 a man would have to pay £11,383, or or they will be allowed to switch to a more

backing the cost of insurance, especially for the 50- and 60-year-olds - whose need is the most immediate - will run into several thousand pounds.

For most individuals who will qualify for the state partnership scheme their homes are their only significant assets apart from up of private long-term care policies it may earmark their pension lump sum or take The consultation document will out out an equity release scheme that will require them to surrender some of the eq-

uity in their home to buy a policy. Even if the outline of the Governmeot's proposals are published within weeks and win largely bi-partisan support in the House of Commons, there is a real possibility that legislation could be overtakeo by ao electioo and delayed another

Since time is of the essence in taking out insurance policies - and premiums escalate sharply the older the individual is when the policy is taken out - PPP Lifetime Care is actively marketing policies with a guarantee that if the rules are changed to reflect the introduction of Government support their premiums will be ameoded,

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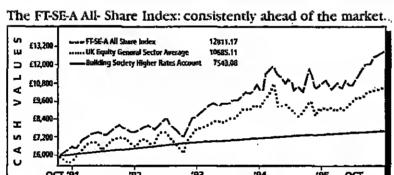
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fixed rates and discount rates and a few variable rates. Bradford & Bingley is pio-oeering the fight-back by mutual huilding societies by cutting standard variable mortgage rates to a market-leading 7.24 per cent from 1 March and simultaneously raising savings rates to an average 0.5 per ceot above and Abbey National,

Alliance & Leicester has introdoced oew cheaper fixed-rate mortgages for one, two, three and five-year periods. The ooe-year rate is 1.95 per ceot for up to 95 per cent of loan to value. Re- of valuation fee up to £400 demption fees of six mooths and free unemployment prointerest will be charged if the tection insurance for a year. too, two and three-year Britannia BS and Winterthur mortgages are redeemed be- Life are offering a two-year fore February 2001, and the fixed rate of 5.99 per ceol for five-year before 2002.

Jorthern Rock is launching a new two-year fixed rate mortgage at 3.99 per cent, or 5.99 per cent fixed for three years, a 6.25 discount on the standard variable rate of 7.44 per ceot for ooe year or a 3 per cent discount for two years, all with redemption penalties of 5 per cent dur-

ortgage rates are edging down again, with wide-spread reductions in a variable rate mortgage of a variable rate mortgage of 7.19 per cent with a 6 per cent penalty for redemption in the first six years.

First Mortgage is launching a new five-year fixed rate. mortgage at 6.99 per ceot for loans up to 75 per cent of val-uation, available until 16 February. A booking fee of £275 is charged and a six-month interest peoalty is charged for equivalent rates from Halifax redemption within the five;

> Pritannia BS is offering Bfirst-time buyers a oce-year discount of 2.75 per ceot plus a 3 per cent cashback up to £6,000, a refund: remortgages up to 95 per cent . of valuation, with free valuation, no legal fees and a fourweek completion period.

General Accident Life has extended the availability of its: package of Flexi Mortgages, based on Newcastle BS products, which range from a 5 per cent cash-back and no discount to a 5 per cent discount and no cash-back.

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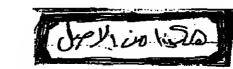
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# Scandinavia is hot. For the moment

Consistent growth is making Finland, Sweden and Norway look impressive. By Alison Eadie

organ Grenfell's European of the UK approach that all share-Growth Trust has a somewhat freewheeling approach to investment. It does not try to outperform stock market indices, but looks for value wherever it can be found on the Con-

tinent and, now and then, in the UK. The result has been impressive. The £640m fund, a unit trust that can be invested in a PEP has outperformed its peers since it was launched in

1988, according to Micropal.
It is first in the European sector over the last five years and second over one year, behind Europa, Morgan Grenfell's European small companies fund. The search for value means whole countries and sectors can be in or out

At the moment Scandinavia is in, particularly Finland. A hefty 40 per cent of the fund is invested in Norway, Sweden and Finland.

Peter Young, manager of European Growth, says good-quality, non-cyclical growth companies in Finland are selling at prices of only seven to eight times this year's expected earnings. Cyclical stocks such as paper are selling on only five times this year's earnings. By contrast German stocks
Nokia – one of the 8 per cent stocks – are selling on 15 times 1996 earnings and German software company SAP.

and French stocks on 13.5 times. German and French stocks are better value than they were - their price-earnings ratios are usually higher - he is wary. For the past year, the fund has held only two stocks in Germany. Its total holdings presently number 65 and 80 is the maximum.

The fund's flexibility is its strength. Mr Young points out that European stock markets are not as developed as those in the UK and US, and information flow is a much more hit-andmiss affair. There are therefore bigger anomalies to be found in valuations of

Fundamental research and company visits are the cornerstone of European Growth's approach. Although information is not automatically dished out, as in the UK, through ever more frequent trading statements, it can still be ferreted out.

Mr Young says Continental com-panies often give large shareholders information that UK companies would not divulge. Their interpretation of inall investors equally is different. Instead trimmed to 5 per cent of assets.

holders must be told if one is told, Continentals will answer directly to the questioner but feel no obligation to inform the rest. If anyone else were to ask, they would also be told.

The advantage of superior knowledge means there is a temptation to overweight the fund when the opporprice risk, no more than 30 per cent of assets are allocated to one country and no more than 8 per cent to one

stock, says Mr Young. Only two holdings are allowed to reach the 8 per cent ceiling and both must be easily tradeable. As with countries, the fund dips in and out of sectors. It has virtually nothing in the consumer sector at the moment and very little in oil other than a couple of Russian stocks. Two years ago it was heavily weighted in luxury goods and now has a high proportion of computer and high-tech stocks.

Mr Young explains: "As a house we don't like funds with restricted mandates. We like the fund manager to roam, to find value."

High-tech favourites include the

The fund topped up on its Nokia Although Mr Young accepts that holdings when the price recently halved from its peak, and even at prevailing prices is showing a fivefold gain on the purchase price.

SAP has similarly suffered a shareprice bashing after one quarter's bad results. Mr Young points out: "We are in a good position to buy when panic selling sets in as we know the compa-nies so well." SAP's shares, despite their setback, have increased tenfold since the fund first bought them.

Finding value can mean smallish holdings suddenly become very big ones. Mr Young this month found himself selling a large chunk of British Biotech, the fund's only UK holding, even though he believes the share price will continue heading north.

Having bought at an average price of £5 a share, the fund took profits at close to £18.

The spectacular and sudden rise in price meant British Biotech represented 13 per cent of the fund's assets. This is against unit trust (10 per cent maximum per stock) and Morgan sider trading laws and the need to treat . Grenfell's own rules, so the holding was

Mr Young dismisses fears that its price rise has been overdone. "Forget where it has been," he cautions. "Investment must always be forwardlooking."

As well as successes, there have been disappointments. EVC (European Vinyls Corporation), the joint venture hetween ICI and Enichem that floated tunities look good. To minimise the on the Amsterdam stock market in November 1994, has not lived up to expectations. It is presently trading around 50 guilders against an issue price of 77 guilders.

European Growth's eclectic style does not lend itself to narrow specialisms. As a result Morgan Grenfell's 14-strong European team are all generalists. The approach is helpful in controlling risk, says Mr Young.

There is no over-dependency on one person and investment decisions are subject to peer review rather than review by a senior person who may not know the markets as well.

Valuation methods involve looking at balance sheets, free cash flows, priceearnings ratios and other standard analytical tools. Much hangs on whether management is telling a believable

story, says Mr Young.

The outlook for European investment is reasonably healthy, he believes. Despite the slowdown of the last quarter, there is scope for earnings growth

Although there is theoretically plenty of scope for cost-cutting in European companies, Mr Young warns against expecting too much. The strength of social consensus will ensure that employees continue to enjoy a size-

able share of corporate wealth.

"It is almost impossible to exaggerate the degree of cultural difference between the US and parts of Europe. A lot of potential value will never go to shareholders," says Mr Young. This is more true of bigger, older industries, such as metal-hashing, than newer industries such as computers, he adds.

Scandinavia remains the favourite investment market, but the fund will continue to pick and choose in several

Mr Young sees no difficulty with the fund growing in size. "We still have more good ideas than cash to invest."

> European Growth Trust Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, 20 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M IUT. Telephone: 0171-588 7171



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Jorthern Rock has closed its fixed rate follow-up Tessa account paying 7.64 per cent, but the variable rate account paying 8 per cent on the maximum £9,000, 7.5 per cent on other balances down to £3,000 remains avail-

West Bromwich Building Society has withdrawn its follow-up Tessa offering 7.55 per cent fixed for the next five years "following unprece-dented demand", and replaced it with a 7.35 per cent year. fixed rate.

Tessa available, topping 7.30 per cent at Yorkshire Building Society and Bradford & Bingley, 7.22 per cent at the TSB and 7 per cent at Bar-

clays Bank. Leeds & Holbeck BS has launched an escalator Tessa for maturing £9,000 Tessas. It year rising to 6.2 per cent in

Ipswich Building Society has increased its rates for (variable) on amounts be-

cent for existing customers, 7 per cent for transfers from other providers. Alliance & Leicester has in-

troduced two new investment accounts, which do not qualify for membership of the society, to replace qualifying accounts withdrawn last week. will pay 6 per cent in the first Prime 90 Deposit account will pay 4.1 per cent on year two, 6.5 per cent in year amounts from £1,000 to three, 7.2 per cent in year four £5,000, 6.1 per cent up to and 9 per cent in the final £10,000 and 6.60 per cent up

remains the best fixed-rate maturing Tessas to 7.25 per tween £500 and £3,000, 6.20 per cent up to £4,800 and 7.25 per cent on the maximum £9,000 rollover account.

Skipton Building Society has increased the minimum investment needed to open a share account which makes the investor a voting member of the society to £2,500.

"This is one decision the society would have preferred not to make, hut we have a chief executive, John Goodto 325,000 The Tessa deposit fellow, said. "The society has account pays 6.1 per cent no intention to convert or be

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Ryan Gilbev

# THEATRE

AN IDEAL HOSEAND Martin Shaw and Arms Carteres stat.

Acclaimed production of Priestley's thriller, Garrick Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0176-494 5055) & Leic Sq. Mon-Fri 7.45, Sat 8.15, [4] 2.30, [7] 5.00, ends 30 Mar, £9-£24,50.

Notes in Colores Composition in Mastinew Wareless production, Today 2.00 & 7.15.

ROTAL SHARESPEARE COMPANY The Best-deare Les Entants Du Paradis Surron Collow directs.

les Entints du Parines surpou comme de con-fockey 2,00 & 7,15. The Fix: Stangther Eig Nooral Wallace's award-winner et in an abattoir, Today 2,10 & 7,15. Barboarn: E6-E7-A The Fix E10-E10-Rarb-ton and analysis Barbara.

con. ECC 10171-638 8891) & Barbican.

Starring Runhie Henshall as Nancy. Landon Buladium Argyll Street, WI (0171-494 90205035) & Oxford Circ. Mon-Su 7-30, [4][7] 2.30, £10-£50.

Jonathan Harvey's Liverpudian love story. Criterion Piccodilly Circus, W1 (0171-369) 1747) & Picc Circ. The Sot 839, Sun 700, [7] 430, [1] 300, ends 3 Mar. 25-231.

TRANSPORTING
Lecture Websh's Insight Into drug culture.
. Inchassadors Webs \$1(0)(71-8/6)(0)(11) @ Leic
Sag Lest perfs inday 500) & 8.30, ES-816.50.

THE WIND IN THE WILLIAMS
ALM Beamed's version of Grahame's nevel
(Vol.) 2: Waterket Read, SEI 10171-928 00351

BR & Waterloo, Mon-Saj 7.30, [417] 2.50.

ABoff's House Electers Theatry \ 1944 production. Last perf tonight 7.3/pm. Sun 5.4/pm. £9. comes £6. UNE Propin Shou 101 Chet Baker's mysterious

death underpins this visual performance pace. Last performent Spin, DSSC cones £6. La ender Hill, SW 11 (0) 71-223 22231 BR: Clapham Iunction.

BRIXION SHAW THEATRE, THE BRIX
The Long & The Short & The Tall Willis Hall's classi

warture drama. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. ends 17 Feb. St. Stij Mon £61, cones £6.50. Briston Hill. SW210171-274 p4701 BR/O Briston.

Chambras technique Black, Minne Theatre's physical look at minud-race relationships. Mon-Sai Spin, ends, 3 Feb. 28-50, Mon & ewis: 15, Southampson Row, W. (11017), 242-76-60; 49-Hofborn.

Flesh Fly See Crune's Choice. Temight & Sun

PERCELL ROOM
LIMS: The House Of Bernarda Alba Surreal, clowning

werking of Lorea's classic Last perfs tenight & Sun Spm. E9, dynes F7.50 South Bank Centre (0171-460/4342) BR-9 Whterloo.

TREATE HERBITE
THE TRIES REMAINE BLACK American experience is vacued through an alling Patishargh
restaurant. Mon-Sai Rom 129 Jan. 7pm.), mais
Sai 4pm. ends 24 Feb. £7 50-£13, pay what

vou can Mon & mai Set, cones available. Kilburn High Rd (0171-728 (000) ♦ Kilburn

COCHRAME THEATRE

ends 30 Mar, £6.75-£34.75

**BEYOND THE WEST END** 

RUPERT STREET LOWELY HEARTS CLUB

TOTAL LIVE

IN MISPECTOR CALLS

RUYAL MATIONAL THEATRE

### EXHIBITIONS

### POP

critics' choice

Angela Lewis

### CLASSICAL

# DANCE

Emerson String Quarter (above) The admired Corazon Flamenco continues its disappointing Heat Michael Mann brings out the big guns of method for a downbest thriller that chases A Pacino's cop (above) and Robert De Nino's criminal around a stylised Los Angeles.

Leaving Las Vegas Mike Figgs returns with a gritty, romanitic tale of love and doorn in Las Vegas Mike Figgs returns with a pain. With Nicolas Cage, Elizabeth Shue.

Seven Just as the serial-follor germs seemed to be growing blunt, in sweeps David Fincher to be growing blunt, in sweeps David Fincher to sherpen it up. Morgan Freeman and Brad Pitt sherper or the Copps investigating a Sevan Coedly Size inspired with series of the Company, Everyman, Chellenham

The Mark Alfreis and Michael States or seemed a series of the Series of Series of the Series of the Series of the Series of Series of the Series of Series Beethoven cycle continues in London, while a nun Manuela Carrasco saves the evening in the

7 175

# arts and entertainment listings

FILM

**WEST END**  Also conside Landon
 Ars Ventura When Mathere Calls (PG) The ■ RS 94/1000: When nature and Model 12:10, 2:50, 5:10, 7:25, 9:35; Marner West End 12:30, 5:10, 7:25, 9:35; Marner West End 12:30, 5:10, 5:10, 7:20, 9:36; L2:10 ministright Office and PRESIDENTIAL PROPERTY 11:51 Remainist comedy, Plaza 1:40, 5:25, 6:10, 8:25

ANGELS MID RESCUE 151 Adaptation of AS Best's novel, Perceible MC/M 7 40, 8-15; The Minema 3-30, 6-30, 8-35 The Minema 3.30, 6.30, 8.45

MBE TU1 A rig attempts to would landing up as a Sunday roast Empire Leit Sq. 1.15
4.20, n.30, 6.45, 11.40 ISa1; To cantern MGM
12.20, 2.35, 4.40, 6.55 Faza 1.15, 3.15, 5.15

IN THE BLEAK MIDWATER (15) A modely collection of across relicance their production of Hamle, Harmarket MCM 120, 3.41, 6.10, 6.40; Odeon Mezanine 3.20, 6.25, 8.45

N. P. Calebon, Westmanner, S. 200, 6.23, 6.45

■ BRIMBERRY 115 | Mod Gibson directs and stars, Calebon Members 2.99, 7.40, Place 7.20

■ DE BRIDGES OF MARISON CRIMITY 1121 lowers set formance. Burner West End 12.40, 5.45

■ THE BRIDGES OF MARISON CRIMITY 1121 lowers set formance. Burner West End 12.40, 5.45

■ THE BRIDGES OF MARISON CRIMITY 1121 lowers set for the large war and happiness. Calebon The Camming 5.15, 6.20, 9.40

■ CRIMITED 1125 of Notherman and passes of the men she lones by marrying his gray kneer. Functor is MCM 2.15, 5.40, 9.00

■ THY OF LOST CHARGES 1.15 | A man Islanges children to stead their diseases. Parner Stock (MCM 2.00, 7.45)

■ CRIMITED 100. 115.1 | Submaning thriller. Insections of the CRIMITED 1.51.2 | A man Islandes (MCM 2.00, 7.45)

■ CRIMITED 100. 115.1 | Submaning thriller. Insections.

GRISSON TIDE (15) Submanine theiler. Inscient MGM Sat 12 (tundingly) Odom Manine 245, 855, 835 ■ BANGEROUS (MNDS | L5| Michelle Pictiful

Mars. Colone, Marthe Arth 1,15, 3,45, 6,15 Lord State 6,45 Oderan Hest End 1,50, 4,00, 1,50, 8,50, 11,45 (50) DERLIK A BLIE DRESS (15) A reclandant

 Meril, Mr. B. Big. DRESS (15) A recurrent
 World, Wr. Two valences acropte a stronger's offer of work. Crown West End 1,15 (Sol). Soll, 6,10, 8,200 (Res Crownal 2011/Sol).
 Soll, 5,9 (B. 1),2011/Sol.
 FAR GAME (15). Supermodel Crody Crow-lerd makes her acting debut. Two address 1973) (2.2), 235, 435, 7 (B. 9.25). Homes West End 12 (b), 235, 546, 7, III, 9, 20, 11, 45
 FROM CLOSS, Soll, 7, III, 9, 20, 11, 45 FARIMELLI 1151 Faccine of an 18th tentury control osneyr, DCIM Swas Centre Link, 435-705-935

THE FLOWER OF MY SECRET ( 15) A WINDLED IN surrounded by backering relatives. Curawi Nat Ger 1,15 (Ser), 325, 6 (R. S.D. Gair N. G HILL C. 15 (Sat), 3.45, 6.15, 6.45, 11,15 (Sat); ar 1.50, 3.50, is 15, 8.40, Ruce Cineria 21011S.a.(4.20, 5.40, 916, 11.50)Satt FOUR ROOMS (18) Four min thus, Wiener the End 5.20, 8.20 (1), 10

Weet End S. M. & S. C. (1997) Conference and Computational Conference in Proceed Proceedings of the Conference on Computational Conference on Conference on Computational Conference on Computation LA HABE (15) Tensons escalate in a group of ethnically mixed tennagers. Staffashury Aremac MCM 2.40, 5.50, 8.50

HEAT (15) At Pacino and Robert De Nico in another cop psychopath thriller, Invadence MGM 130, 5 ot, 840, Racy Colonia 130, 15at, 420, 750, 11,3015at) + Violant Streets THE HORSEMAN ON THE ROOF | 151 Eps. 19th century adventure stairme bullette Brown century adventure starring Interite Burns Chelsen Cinema 231, 5, 15, 8, 15; Lumiere 20. 5.)5. E. 15; Ricy (Inema 2.50 (Sat).

DIE MINICERT SLEEP (15) A homeles Liver pudian witnesses a murder. Haymarket MCM 1.30, 3.55, 6.20, 8.45; Tea Ci Road M17M 1.45. 4.15, 6.55, 9.30; The adors MGM 1215, 2.33. 4.35, 6.55, 9.15, 12.0 brackraphs (Satr. LIND & FREEDOM | 151 Ken Londa's latest, Cur-sin Phoenic 1,15 (Sut., 3,40, 6,05, 8,50

Shi Phoenta 1,15 (Sult. A.O. O.D., S.-VI © LEMBE LIS WESS 1181 Streat-lead view of the glipsy world of Las Vegns. Barblean Cin-ema 3,30 (Sun), 6,15, 8,40. Harmanket MCM 1,10, 3,40, 6,10, 8,40. MCM Swas Centre 1,50, 4,15, 6,40, 9,10. Warner West End 1,30. 3,50, 6,20, 8,30, 11,30. Swater we need to 1,130. A directive constraints LYMK, N. DELIVIDN | 15) A director experiences a catastrophic day's filming, Physical Street MGM 4, 84, 9,40

THE MOST DESIRED MARY (18) An irrespendite main We wigst Describt 1994 1 by An Dressed Albe trian becomes entrolled in the gay community. ACTM Swiss Cleans 2 10, 4.45, 7.20, 9.45; That CT RA MCGM 205, 4.35, 7.05, 9.40 (2014) WHE WITHERS 1 181 Moreove set thriller. Warter West End 1, 20, 3, 40, 6,00, 8,30, 11,00 (1, PGSTMO 1.5). A position assets belon from the control of the best formation and the second section of the section of the second section of the second section of the second section of the section of the second section of the section of the second section of the section of the second section of the secti

an exiled poet over matters of the heart.
Punton Street MGM 200, 4.20, 6.50, 9.20 Payton Street MCM 200, 4-21 0-30, 4-24 SARTIN (PG) A chauffeur's daughter is wood by rival millionaire brothers. Engine Leicester Square 12-20, 3-10, 5-50, 3-30, 11-15 [Set]; Tracaton MGM 12-10, 3-10, 5-10, 9-00, 12-00mldright (Set) ● SEPSI 1181 A series of marders stamp homicide detectives. *Hot C: Rd MGM 1.20*, 4,00. n.41, 9.20. *Chlom Leic Sq* 12 noon, 2.50, 5,50, 8,45, 11.40 [Sail; Reiv J. 10, 5,50, 8,30, 11.15 [Sail] + Johnny Suede (Rue) SHARSHI TRIAD (15) Changes gangster that MGM Swiss Center 155, 425, 650, 920

SHOWERLS | 181 A chancer sheeps her way to fame. Othern West End 1240, 3.25, 6.10, 8.55, 11.50 (Sat1 ● TH DIE FOR (15) Nicole Kelman stars.

7 (0, 11.40) MIRIS TO SUBLE (15) A group of women friends berate the lack of eligible men in Process. Arizona. Shofushur Avenue MGM 201, 505. 8.15; Trocadero MGM 12.15, 3.15, 6.15, 9.01, (2.00maknight (Sat); Warner Best End 12.20, 3.30, 6.10, 9.00, 11.50 THE WART PCT Known Constner teaches his some the concept of position. Place 3.15, 8.30 WHEN HIGHT IS FILLDING (18) A Christian acade-

REPERTORY CINEMAS REPERIORY (AREMIA)

LEFERMAN Hampstead NW3/10171-435 15.251

LEFERMAN HEIPSTEAD NEW FOR (1814-10)

1.17pm + Turp Belle Pour For (1814-10)

1.57pm + Just E. Jim (196) Sen (12-40)

1.57pm + Hearts Of Darkness (18) 7.57pm

1.52 CIREMA The Mail SW/1 (1971-450-7657)

MFT South Bank SEL (0171-928 3252) BET South Bank SET (0171-928-325-2). The Bridges Of Madrian County 1121-Sat Assym Americk 11' (524) spin The Lody With The Little Dog (PG) Sat 6.15 on The Seventh Vell Sat 6.35 on The Red Shoes IU (Nat 3.35 on September 12). San 4.35 on The Bridges Of Madreen County 112) San open The Young Powenter's Handbook (18) San 6.15 on America Vell II's San 13.5 on America Vell II's And Death 1PG1 San 8.35 on Streets of Fire 1155 San 8.45 on Set 5 on 8.45 on 1150 San 6.45 on 115 Leaving Lin Vegas (18) Sat 2-45pm, Spm, 7,15pm, 9,35pm; Sun 4,34pm, 0.45pm, 9,an PRINCE CHARLES Leicuster P110171-437 X(S.1)

Printe Brown Foot PG | See L. Epon While You Were Steeping (PG) See L. Epon While You Were Steeping (PG) See L. Epon White You Pulp Fiction 1181 See L. Edgen Carrington (18) Sun Jam When Night Is Falling 118) Sun J. Bipm Heavy 115) Sun 6.30pm The Adventures Of Priscilla. Oueen Of The Depart 115 See E. Edgen Desert 1151 Sun &-15pm

n.45pm Fun [18] Sun Jum + Heavenly Creatures (18) 5pm Shanghai Thad (15) Sun 9pm

### THEATRE

THE DOCHESS OF WALFI

THE FIELDS OF AMBROSIA

Joel Higgers as a Deep South executioner,
Aldwych Aldwych WC210171-410 6003)

6 Holbrum Mor-Sar 7.45 (31 Jan. 7.00), [4][7]

3.00, £12.50-£77 until 30 Jan, then £15-£25-50. THE SLASS MENUSERIE Tennessee: Williams' tragin drama. Camedy Panton St (0171-369 1731) & Piec Circ, Mon-Sat 7.30, [7] 3.00, ends 16 Mar, £5-£23.

● TO DEE FOR (15) Nicole Kalman stars, Pseculity MGM 1.50, 3.45, 6.10, 8.30; Cles in Micromine 2.55, 6.15, 8.40 THE UNDERFAIN (15) A track driver tries to with back his ex-wife. Place 1.05, 6.15 THE USUAL SUSPECTS (18) Five Innova felous plan another crime whilst in augusty. Pamie Serva MGM 2.95, 4.30, 7.00, 9.25; Warner West End 1.40 (not Sat, Stm), 4.05, 6.30. 9.10, 11.40.

mic lab for a flamboyant circus performet, Picculith MGM 1.30, 6.10

THE WHITE BULDON (U) Iranica tale about a young gut's struggle to buy a goldfish.

Remor 1.15, 3.10, 5.05, 7.05, 9.05

Phoents 369 1721; Curran West End 369
1722 Empire Lore Sq 0700-888905; Gaire
Not Hall TT 4041; Lumere 379 2014;
MGM Hayererfeet 839 1527; MGM Panton
St 910 1631; MGM Piccashiy 477 3501;
MGM Shafiesbury Ava 359 6275; MGM
Swiss Centre 437 2000; MGM Son C. Rd
ndo n449; MGM Toccasion 434 6027; The
Minema 309 1722; Odeon Haymarket 830
7697; Odeon Leic Sq 930 323; Odeon Marhi; Arch 0422; Odeon Haymarket 830
1697; Odeon West End 930 523; Phan
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94 4908; Odeon West End 930 523; Phan
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ma 737 2/21: Warmer West End 457 4343.

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Overt 1151 Sun 8-45pm
RD Krugsland High St 10 [11-254 6877]
Pocabonius [10] Sut Hum Orphed [PG] Sut
Sun 1-45pm + La Belle et la Bale (PG]
Sut Sun 5-45pm + 830pm Panther [180/Fresh
1181 Sut 11-15pm
RWERSHE STUNIOS CHEMA Crisp Rend We
10181-741 2255]
Once Upon A Time In The West (151 Sut
3-30pm + Once Upon A Time to America
(18) Sut 6-45pm Hanussen Sun Jun +
1478 Feathers [10] Sun 3-30pm The Leopard [PG] Sun 6-30pm

Horse Feathers IU | Sun 3,30pm The Leop-ard JPG | Sun 6,30pm | WATERHOOD AND TWO 1018 | 1-368 1170 | Street, Brent-ford TWS 1018 | 1-368 1170 | Star 1,30pm | Star Trek Generations IPG | Sat 1,30pm | Shanghai Trual 115 | Sat 6,30pm | The Horse-man On The Rood | 115 | Sat 8,75pm; Sun 1 | 100 | Sat 1,30pm | Sat 1,30

WEST END CHOICE

Mutines — [1]: Sun. [3]: The, [4]: Wed. [5]: Thu. [6]: Frl. [7]: Sun COMPARY Common 1970 Southware and George Furth musical, Demnar Warehouse Eartham Street, WCC 10171-369 17321 ⊕ Lese Sq. Mon-Sai 7.30, [44]7]3.00, cm/s 2 Mar. £12-£23. John Webster's Jacobean tragedy.
Windham's Char X Rd [369] 7361 @ Leic
Sq. Last peris today 230 & 7.30, £7.50-£19.

The langle Book Kipling's stories recreated in a production by Tim Supple. Last perfs today. £14, comes £7.50. The Cin. SE1 (0171-928 £363) BR. Waterloo.

**AROUND THE COUNTRY** Basingstoke

HATHLERGET HERRIE
Private Lines Twin discretes koney moon in the
same, hotel as their old partners. Mon-Sai
7.45pm, mas Sai & T. F.-b., 3ym, code 10 Teb.
18.75-\$13.95, cones available. Wore Street

SMEDIA, Stafe Plate Cover Experiments In Ecile Theatre's multi-media production. Last perf toolght Spm. 85-87-50, conce. \$4.50-26. Manchester Street (0) 273-670030)

Bristol

REWING STRING Medi Phaders I an Hastings directs Les Smith's adaptation of Defoc's cycle Last part tonight 8pm, 51-50, himled const \$5.50. King Street (0017-987 7877)

HISTERIA Revival of Terry Johnson's Eurobal drama. Duke of York 'r St. Martin's Lune (0171-836 5122) & Luk Sq. Last perfs today 370 & 7.30, FS-12250. Cheltenham Theatre Royal Haymarket, SWI (0171-930 8900] & Pice Cire, Mon-Sat 7,45, [4][7] 3.00, ends 20 Apr. £10-£26. that Line Method & Madness's penchy

production of Coward's marital councy. Last perfs today 2pm & 3pm. £4.50-£13.50, concs available. Repent St 101242-572573) Dawlish LFISURE CENTRE

ties temper (Smite).

The Temper (David Thacker directs, Last perf-tonight 7.30pm, £7-£14, cones available.

Sandy Lane (01626-863873) Guildford YVOICE ARRAND THEATRE Conduct Habeconing Carol Drinkwater sters in Barry England's 1880s' India drama. Last

Wild Gats Anton Lesser in Jeremy Sams' pro-shelton, Today 2.15 & 7.30. is today 2.30pm & Spm, £10-£19-50, concs ilable, Millbrook (01483-440000) duction, feetay 2.15 & 7.50. Congcine Stanloy Amony Sher as the great English artes Stanley Spermer. Tompto 7.50. Other & Lynchon £7.50.£22.50. Collestoe £10.£14.30. Day seass from 10am, South Bank (0171-928 2252) BR/O Wittertwo.

WILEST HEARE
Virtues Study of the mental instability of the
piano genius John Ogdou, Mon-Fri 7.45pm,
Sai Spin, mate Wed 2.30pm, Sat 4ym, ends 10
Feb. 27.31-112-30, ennocessors available.
Civic Drive (01473-253725) Norwich

MURWICH PLATHOUS The little and Fall of Little Voice Jing Cartwight's

has men and past of the state o Peterborough

lef HERRE half held DGM Productions present a new version of the 1950s rock'n roll show. Lost perfs roday Span & Span DS-D-E11, cones positable. Embankment Rood (1) 1733-52439)

THE MIKE AT SOMETHE How The Other Half Lines Three comples marriages are dissected in Apeldourn's comedy. The Sat & Espat, mass Sat 2.15pm, ands 24 Feb. £18.95-£29.95 inc dinner.

Stratford-upon-Avon THE OTHER PLACE

ine uther PLAGE
The Pheorician Women Katle Michell directs
Euripides: timeless tragedy about war
brutality. Last perfs today 1,30pm & 7,30pm.
£13-£17, comes available. Southern Lane
[01789-255023]

ROTAL STANCE FLARE BEAUTE
Related III David Troughton heads Surven
Publist's production of Shakespeare's bruta
poblical drama. Law perfs today 1.30pm &
7.30pm. Di-6-C., standing 14-30-C. comes
nyallable. Waterside [01789-295623] SMOUNTHEATRE

SMM INGAM.
Fact Howard Bremon's version of Goethe's 
cpie drama about temptation. Last perfit 
loday Part 1, Span Part 2, 7,30pm, BS-30(23,50, conto available, Waterside 
[0]787-298-25.

Watford

PLACE HEARE
Invalid Hight Oxford Stage Company's fresh
version of Strakespeare's contexty, 2-25 Jan.
7.45pm. 28 & 27 Jan. 8pm, mats 24 Jan.
2.30pm. 71 Jan. 3pm. 44-114-75, cones
available. Clarendon Road (01923-225671)

**EXHIBITIONS** 

Cambridge

Exeter SPACET CALLERY

San Ham Gaudy, sexy, banal paintings, Tite-Sai Ham-Spin, ends 17 Feb, Inc. Presson Street [01.392-431786] London

Bargition BAT GLLERY
Bagging: Creatur of the Balets Basses See Cettic's
Closies: Mon. Weed-Sat 10am-6-45pm. The
10am-5-45pm, Sun 12anon-6-45pm, ends 14
Apr. S.; cones E.; Silk Street, EC.; (0171-635
4)411 @ Barbican/Moorgate. Remarked Select Potes Transment Severia Project by Stephen Murphy and Don Bruwn, Mon-Sun 10ars-10pm, ends 18 Feb, free. Belvedure Rd [0171-9094242] BR/40 Waterloo.

ICA CALLER?

Into Carria, Sichhan Hapesta Paintings by Currin,
sculpture by Hupesta, Mon-Sun Lancon,
7.30pm (Fri until Span), ends 18 Feb. 21-50
day m'ship. The Mall, SW1 (0171-930 3647)

G-Charing Cross/Pacadilly Circus.

EUPL MATHELA CALLER!

Lights Winter Oriental antiquities and modern.

logian Water Oriental antiquities and mode logian art. Mon-Pri (Dam-Spm, Sat (Dam-2pm, ends 3 Feb, free. New Burlington Street, W( (0)71-437.2172) & Picc Circ.

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY RALL ROOM, ROYAL PESTIVAL HALL

Her World Integray Contemporary Jamaica Art, Mon-San 10am-10.30pm, ends 25 F free, South Bank Centre, SEI (0171-960 42421 BR/& Waterloo.

SARPH GALLER Hung Rupelines Janine Antoni, Sean Landers Gregory Green, Charles Long, Thu-Son 12m0n-Spm, ends 3 Mar. Thu free, Pri-Son E.3-G, Bondary Road, NWS (0171-624 8299) BR: South Hamptend. SEPPENTINE CALLERY

ion Statuta Symbolic scriptural works focusing on the body. Mon-Sun 10an-opm, ends 25 Feb. tree, Kensington Gardens, W2 [1]71.723 9072] 

South Ken. STATES I DANSON ART GALLERY Sound Biogr Site specific video prece. Sat & Sun 2pm-6pm, ends 28 Jan, free. Peckham Road, SE5 (0171-703 6120) & Oval.

THE GALLEN
BR Woodrow-Fook; Gold Large: brounze
scalptures, Mon-Sur (Dani-5, Sopra, ends 23
Apr., free, Millbank, SW) [0] 71-887 8000)

© Findico. WHITECHAPEL ART GALLERY

Whitestaver, wit salary End Matta Comprehensive show of oils, watercolours and prints. See Unit's Choke. Tue-Sun Ham-Spm (Wed until Bum), ends 55 Feb. £4,50, cones £2,50, free Tuesdays, Whitechapel High Street, £1 (0171-52)

Oxford\_ CHROST CHURCH PICTURE GALLERY Rehard Westwerth: Little Differences Sculptural works, Mon-Sut 10:30am-1pm, 2pm-5:20pm, Sun 2pm-5:30pm, ends 31 Jan. £1, eyncs 50p. Christ Church College (9) 865-2761501

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART Sergio Cantargo: Scotphare 1960-1990 Retrospective show: Tue-Sar 10ar (That until 9pm), Son 2pm-6pm, ends 14 Apr. 52 90, ernes £1.50, free Wed Ham-1pm, Thu 6pm-9pm, Pembroke Street 101863-722733)

Penzance

NEWLYN ART GALLERY Finols loses, Alica Maher Installation by Jones, painting by Mahert, Mon-Sal (Rom-Spin, ends 10 Feb. (ree, New Road 1017/6-63715) **Portsmouth** 

SPEXGALLERY Boar Includes work by Ingrid Pollard and Keith Piper, Wed-Sat L2noon-6pm, Sun 2pm-5pm, ends 18 Feb, free. Beongham Road (8) 705-6121211 Southampton

SOUTHAMPTON CITY NET GALLERY As-operators includes work by Langiands & Bell, Jane & Louise Wilson. Toe/Wed/Fri 10an-5pm, Thu Huan-8pm, Sat 10an-4pm, San 2pm-5pm, eads 25 Feb, free. Civic Centre 197703-832151)

Worthing WORTHING MISCIME & ART GRITERY lots Brathy Heavily tropps used social realist painting by "hitchen sink" artist. Mon-Sai 10am - Spm. ends 3 Feb. free.

### tuam-spm, ends 3 Feb. free. Chapel Road (01903-239090) COMEDY

Hampton Court SCREAMING BY HE WIRDER AT THE MITTEE Milton Jones, John Mann & Dylan Moran. San 8.30pm (0181-979 9988) L5, concs £4.

London Paul B Edwards, Sean Meo, Logan Murray & Andy Smart, Tunight 9pm, Bedford Hill [0181-673 1756] Balfram, £6, cones £4. CHRICKLE CLUB AT LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

Eugene Chrose hosts Harry Hill, Milton Jones & Paul Tonkimon, Toright 7.45pm Houghton Street, WCZ 10171-476 16721 ◆ Holborn, Ib, Sudents £4. STRUCK OFF & DIE AT 81 DOMSRUMY THEATRE Signification and Suppose Transporters and Suppose Transporters (Society Republication Street, WC1 (0171-388 8822) BR/O Euston, £7.50, cones £5.50. IN THE CREEK

or included.

Andre Vincent MCs for Phill Jupitus, Mark,
Maier & Steve Murray, Tanight 9pm, Crook
Road (0181-858-158) |

BR: Greenwich, £10, cones £8.

Paul Merton, Strah Parkinson, Lee Simpso Andy Smart, Jim Sweeter, & Richard Vranch, Sun Bpro, Haymarket Honse, Oaendon St (01426-914433) ◆ Leic Sq. £9. Taunton TOP OFFICE AT INCOMPLISES ARTS CHARGE.

Jemny Eclair, the only female Perrier Winner towns her outprapeous show. Topight 7, 45 pm.

Coel Orchard 101823-2832441 phone for

DANCE Epsom EPSOM PLAYHOUSE Fram Fisher Company Arabian Highes New family-oriented holles choreographed b Jan Kitteridge, Today 2, 20pm & 7,30pm £12,50, child £6,50. Ashley Awenue

Wassessimi Arollo
Regardance - The Show Irish dance show with a
score by Bill Whelan, Mon-Sat Spen, mass
Sats 2-40pe, ends 10 Feb. 513-50-527-50.
Queen Curoline Street, W6 [0171-416 6080)

PLICE THEORY.

Resolution!: Correspond-Banco/Match May Raw Head
Previoure of March Ado's Francisym: Paradea;
Paralles; Francische, Empley Syn. En. comes
64. Duke's Rd (6171-587 0031). ◆ Enston.

RATUL (DEED HORSE Royal Bullet: Steeping Businty See Critic's Choice. 29, 31 Jan & 1 Feb., 7.30pm. £1,50-£70. Covern Garden, WCZ (0171: 304-4000) & Covent Garden. SARE EFS WELLS
Coraces Flammed New words by Spanish
charteographer Francisco Sanchez Grajera.
Mon. Fri 7, 70pm, Sat 37th & Span. ende 10
Feb. 25-25. Rosebery Avenue, EC1 (0171276/0916/713 6000) & Angel.

CLASSICAL

Brighton Brighton Philhermonic/Hordsworth Schubert's 5th Symphony with Double Plano Concertos by Bach and Mozzar (Sokiess, Philip Fowke, Hamish Milne) Sen 2-45-pm, 58-615.

Church Street (01273-709709)

London MERICAN HALL Bondon Philippenonic/Magns Silvelius' Finlandia. Gneg's Piano Concerto and Beethoven's Symptomy, Sun 7,30cm, £9,20-£25,50. Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638-8891)

♠ Moorgate Barbicaa. Contractor New Music Planers With piamist Nic Hodges in a celebration of the imuse of Michael Femissy. Sun Spin. A.". carnes 15. The Mail. SW110171-950 3647)

O Charms Cross Embanisment Pierality ORDER ELIZABETH BALL

Refinger Durited Lounced by obose and clarimet in

Mozart's Obose Quartet acad Clarimet

Quinted: Barright From: 56-623,

Lars legt Dutilifetts's 3 Prefeders. Supplement's 6

Barried Dutilifetts's 3 Prefeders. Supplement's 6

Barried Dutilifetts's 3 Prefeders. lars legt Dutillous's 3 Products, Schulver's 6 Moments musiceaux and Brahms' 3rd Piamo Sonata, Sun 3,30pm, 16-615. Emeran Sang Quartel See Critic's Choice, 28 Jan. 7,45pm, 16-615. Emeran Sang Quartel See Critic's Choice, 30 Jan. 7,45pm, 16-615. South Bank Centre, SEI (0171-960-4242) BR-& Waterloo.

ROYAL PESTINAL RULL terrar, PESTRIK, HILL Phillumonth/ron Johnney Mahlier's string orchestra arrangement of Beetinds on's op.95, Schumann's July Strenghory and Brahms' Violin Concerno. Toolgist 7,30pm. E5-230. South Bank Centre, SEI (0171-960 4242)

WIGHOREHALL Borodia Strug Guartet The first string quartet Borodia, Probotiev and Janucek, Tomphi songs, melodies and damons. Sun 4pm. 15-111. Wigmore Struct. W1 (0171-935 2141) O Bond Street/Oxford Circus.

**OPERA** 

London LONDON COLECUM: DIGUISH MYNOMAL OPENA The Pearl Flaters Prailip Province's suaging of Borer's opera set in Caylon, Tonight 7-30pm. 9-150. St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 83001 & Leisester Square/Charing Choss. ROTAL OPERA HORSE: HOUD OPERA
The lindeamore Harriage A new production of Fipper's opera, directed by Grahum Visit and with John Tominismo as King Fisher.

Rinight Typus, £1.50.£71. Covens Garden. Thright 7pm £1.50-£70. Cowent Garden, WCZ (0174-304 4000) & Covent Garden,

# POP

Been See Crine's Choice Susses, University S dent's Union (01273-678154) Tampin Spr phone for availability.

Cardiff
Echally Serious-minded power-pop from
student faves Sonya and en. Terminal 396.
Cardiff University Park Place (01 222,396421)
Sun 7.30pm, £7.50.

London

See Chile's Chaice. Asserta Theatre
Charing Cross Road WC2 (0171-434 0403)

Torrenham Court Road. Son 7pm, 28. ⊕ Tomenhair Court Mand, 2001 July, 200 Dulmance London funk band who have col-laborated with Bjork, Seal and Mick Jagger. The Forum Highgate Rd (0) 71–34 0044) BR/⊕ Kentish Town. Tonight Tym, £10. Felis Eccentric industrial rock pioneer. The Garage Highbury Corner N5 (0171–607 (818) 20. 344 0044) ⊕ Flighbury & Islington. Som Som, £8.

Son Son, D.

Sparidature Annospheric country-rockers, from Virgina, Syken Chib, Rater Rurs Gray's Ina Roud WCI (0171-278 3879)

King's Cross, Tonigha 8, 20pm, 25.

Norwich Not Stan York's hit-making indic-rock shamblers return. Winofton King Street (01603-632717) Tonight 8pm, £6.

JAZZ, WORLD, FOLK ETC Cambridge Bang In A Can IB-Stars Aggressive awant-cham ber sesset. Com Eurhange Whoeler Street (01223-357851) San 7-30pm, £7-50-29-50.

nonno Sary Confident Classy Irish bluestrolk crooner.
Mean Fublic Harlesden High Street NW10
(01SI-961 5-901) BR: Willesden Junction.

10151-361,54901 BR: Willesden Inaction. Tonight 8pm, £10.

Phil Mindre Burnitt Mad vocaliest with a piece based on Francison's Wake, Smist Lol Consults supports. Maponeous at The Red Rose Seven Sisters Rd N7 (0171-263 7265) © Finsbury Park. Sun Spm, £4, cones £1. Habi Yush's Islandan Experimental but Lunkypianist plays strange versions of The Magic Rosendations. Old Bull Arts Centre High Street. Bernet 10181-449 (0048) Street, Barnet (0181-449 0048)

# Arth Marsin & Flara Parim Brazilian scar'n samba. Rounie Scor's Frith Street W1 (0171-439 0747) & Toutenham Cyl Rd. Tanight Ypnt, £12, mens £7.

LITERATURE London LUNIOUS Consistent Playing Looking at the rotation-ship between horser Bicrature and film. Today Lancon, As, const £2.50. Iour Smith An exploration of the detective genre. Today 3pm, £4, const £2.50. Both lackson A look at the development of science liction. Today Spm, EA, exact \$2.50. Voice Bax, Royal Festival Hall South Bank SEI (0171-928 5800) BR/ Waterloo. Human Walters' Workshop A series of readings, workshops and discussions looking at the work of women writers. Today 10am-4pm, 201, cones £12. Commenwealth Institute Kensington Fligh Street W8 (0174-613-4535) & Kensington High Street.

1933) S Reissington ragin states from The, Starta Educary, liarlyn Brontin, Jana Baran The, Street in a new series of poetry and proce readings, Sun Span, £4, course £2, Jackson/3 Lance Commonive Center Archivoly Renal No. (0181-341 4421) © Highgate.

**EVENTS** Arundel

Bailed Wells Enjoy the 63 species of birds
around this 60 sere site. Today 9.30am4.30pm, 84, child E2, cones 51. Bress Rubbing Event for children of all ages. Wildfowl & Wellands Trust Mill Road (019).

41654541 Today 9.30mi-4.30pm, £4, child £2, cones £3 (+ 30p-50p in cover materials) Bridgwater BITGEWEIGEF
Sammy Sagning Wartuben Sammy Hurden
teats this workshop inspired by juzz, soul,
African and gospet traditions. Earley
10.30am-12.30pm. f.A. Bridgemeter. Arts Centre
Castle Street (01278-422700) Bodny 3pm-5pm, £15, concs £10.

London
The Landon British Felt Everything for the province
The Landon British Felt Everything for the province
Alexandra
Per-Alexandra The Lundon British Februyching for the prospec-tive bride and groom. Alicanolus Palace Wood Green N22 (1918-3-65 212\*1) BR: Alicanolus Palace. Torky & Sun, 10am-5pm, £3. Graphi Workshop & Gousert Workshop led by LD Frazier. Curies Church Highbary Grove N5 (1919)-3-41 442)) & Arrestal. Today 2pm-6pm (Workshop) 7. Wpm (Concert), £5. conce £3. 18th Britishy Calabrajians Live performances from West End Shows, a bays of celebrinies and a showels (Errayles. Half Price Talett Routh 1 pices. strowbie karnolee. Half Price Ticket Booth Leices-ser Sq (0171-836 0971) Today (2.20pm, fine.

Late Greenma - Insulnetz Sarvier Moving exhibition looking at the life of the British holocaust survivor. The Joseph Microms. Finchick East End Road No 1918; 339-1135.

49 Finchicy Central, Mon-The 10,30am-jom, Sun 10,30am-j. 30pm. C. cone. C. Cone St. Cloud Benear North American folk tales for ages five and over. Lyde Hammersmith King Street W6 (0181-74) 2311) 69 Hammersmith, Today Ham & Ipn. £3.

Band See and fee Exhibition charang the laws.

smith. Today Harn & Ipm. 23.

Band, San And for Exhibition charring the lease and discoveries of explorers Sir Frances. Drake, Captain Lance Cook and Sir John Franklin. National Maritime Moscum Romers Road SE 10 10181-555-442-1 BR: Marc Hill. From Sun, Mon-Sun Ham-Spn, ends. 30 June, £5 50, cones £450, child £5.

Whigh Of transions and Materialized Chile Lance. No. 1700 St. cones \$1.50, child £5.
World Of Brawings and Watercalours Cody Law on the world cardiavively for drawings and activatively for drawings and act dealers with around 2000 original works. Park Lame Hotel Piccadilly W1 [0]71-703 (25%)

6 Green Park (Pyde Park Corner, Today & Sun 11 am 7pm, £7, comes £3.50, child free. If Caholio de Espana Spectacular display of horsemaniship with the world Jamous Spunish Mancing horses. Roundhouse Chalk Eura Road NWI [0]71-882 [7:15] Today 2:20pm & Spun, £5.£22.51, comes £9.£12.50

Oxford journey through Asia to discover more about its textiles, Pin Rh era Museum South Parks Road (01865-27077) Man Sai Ipm-

### 4.30pm, ends 20 Apr. free.

**AUCTIONS** Clashest Oak and country furniture, ethnic fur-niture and nevelewark. Monday J Spirit. Lots Read Gullerles, 71 Lots Read, Chalsea, Lon-don SW(10 (017), 351 7771). Delchishir: Isth- and Dil-exprory furniture, including press explosurate, dozur chess, dressers, paranovean drining state. Falses and chirt, Thansday (10sm). Kinesford Auxilors. The Lingham Cestro, Sechod Read. Langham 10/206-44858). Biss Architectural salvings, uncluding period building materials, and statuary, neat Saturday 110sm). The Dies Auxilon Recorns, Roydon Read, TW Gast 1018-79-450(505).

Bendrom Bends (1964-for coments of four local estates during furniture, fewerfiery, ceramics, bronzes, watches, instruments, burits, show-

guns, pictures. Monday (12 notes) at on-Weald of Kent Golf Clob, Wealden Auction Galleries (01880-7452). Browlet: Dusing and office furniture, Wednes-day (11am) at the Aut time Centre, Watton, Harell & Co (01852-2055). period. New and a cylical calculus equipment. cookers, microwing, griddles, washers, kitchenalia, turton, crockery, Wednesday (Ham) at the time Store Salcroom, West Lydford, S.H. limkins (IUAS-268786). Selection Books at a maps with many natural history and behavioral works, bound periodicals including Varuly Fair, Illustrated London News and Prach printed ephemera. Wednes-day 11 am) at the Old School, Maxwell Street (01793-611340).

(01793-611340). Whatpan Help the Aged art auction of 97 top UK, contemporaries' work: next Saturday (8pm) at the Gulddhall. Cambegue (07869-241610). Whatbagues Bullding equipment – hand and power tools, timber, tomorrow (11 and at the SET Group Auction Uentre. Clay Flatts Triding Estate. SET Group (01900-871815). Analyses Trade Gazette. (0171-950-4957). Government Auction News (1917)-353-7500 hothin.

### enuncia Auction News 10171-353 7300 ho 0891-8877001.

**FAIRS** 

Administration over 150 exhibitors, Royal Horticultural Hall, Vincent Sq. London SW1, tomorrow (Admin Anaiques Peira 0171-254-4054),
Indiany Sanday: up to 150 exhibitors, tomorrow
(ALCF 01606-702250).
Harve Castle Aniiques: Edenbridge, Kent, FridaySandary (01249-661111),
Indiantin Ricas Aniiques: today and tomorrow,
Knelworth Barres (Junetina 7 Al Mg. Sevenmage (London d'Aniiques Fairs 0171-146 5223).
Lenax Indiques - second Norwich Fine Art and
Antiques Pairs St. Andrews Hall, Norwich: 25
professional dealers, Thumday-Saturday (LizAllport Lonax 01603-737631).
Manustri Bushigha Park Consic Donington Exhibition Centre, near Saturday and Sunday
(Four in One 01455-233495).
Manustri Indianticular Aniiques and Collectons: 300
stands, Granby Halls tomorrow (Four in One stands, Granby Halls tomorrow (Four in One

7:::

4:

\*• \*\*:

stands, Granby Halls comoview (Four in One 11455-223495).
Peterthick Britisms: Town Hall, Petersfield, Hampshire, Thurstiny-Saturday (Gamlin Extistation Services 01452-80257).
Sunbary Indiana Markus, Kampson Park, Race-course, Sunbury on Thurnes, Theoday: 250 stalls inside, 250 oueside (01952-241867).
Sarry Dummites him Outstands Park Hotel, Weybridge, today and temorrow (Wakefield Ceramics Fairs 10595-776091).
Warful of Wakershotz, and Dumitges Park, Lame Hotel, Piccadilly, London Wil, last day tomorrow (1081-742-1611).

# church services

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany CONTROLLEY CATHERING: Xam HC, 4.30am Maters, The CANTENDERY SAMEMER, Sam HC, "Autam Status, And High, Rev. Rah, Hanber Hant Song Landsrick, Ma-ha salve internettar Endlis. The Architecture, Algon Everyong, Purcell in B Bar 6, Signa Complies, The Rev Dr M.J. Chandler. 1988 BHSTB: Barn, 8,55mm HC; Harn Sung Eurehartet, Collegium regule [Thowells]. Cannon Dr. Edward Nor-man; 11,35mm Matter, Stantinel In C; Aprat Everysong, St John's service, (Housells), Cannon Paul Verguson.

St John's serve. (Houcils), Canon Full Ferguson.

BESTIC CHIEFSEL: "Allgar Malaire: Sam HGC Road
Chevil Enclarits, Missa bress (Berlick), I. Canon Alae

Bredictre Mayor Choral Enclare), Lanon Alae

Bredictre Mayor Choral Enclare), Magdalenser
voor Heighten, S. Bismarbary Edinade. Sam HGC,

Canon Martin Shaw. Dhan Song Eucharist, Canon

Martin Shaw. I Hallen Song Eucharist. Canon

Besting (Bayorist - Nam Morning Proper, Ram

HGC, The Rev Indept Jones 9, June Encharte. Canon

David Kniely I H. Sam Sung Eucharist. Debud in C.

The Vice Proposet, optic Choral Evanous, Wood in P. Canon Barry Theologue.

BESTIR CHIEBERS. Sam HGC, 10 M Malae. The Pro
century: I ham Song Eucharist. More Advanced.

ERETE CHIEBERS. Sam HGC, 10 M Sham. Encharted.

Lat all martin David (Barrylow). The Transcript.

LL Sam Malim, Salaham in F. The David Sam

Electrone, Harmond in A. Barrylow). The Transcript.

LL Sam Halim, Salaham in F. The David Sam

Electrone, Harmond in A. Barrylow). The Transcript.

LL Sam Englishen.

Sam Electrone. The Procession.

LL Sam Englishen.

Lean Heile. Mala Barrylow 100, 15 m Englishen.

Latte Latter L. Mala Barrylow 100, 100, 15 m Englishen.

Latter L. Latter Englishen.

, The Presides ICESTE COLLEGIA, Sum HC, 10,15am Emcharist, to in E, Ms Burbars Topps, Lipsa (IC), ions Even-

Makins, Darke in F. Mapu Ewensong, Blair in Fin-nay, Canna Anthony Osborne. STORMER (CHARLES - 7 Mars M. Anthon Persons 2 and 14 CA CONTROL: 7. Warm Marriage Proper. Som I K. INDIFICAL CAMERIOLS. 7. Plean Morrhing Prayer, Saul Ha.
10.2 him Stong Eurcharia, Schafter in G. The: Dean.
3. Open Freud Eventours, Admirston of Organisal and
Candismas Processors. Standard for Co. 30pm Eventus,
Service, Control Richard Hanner.
INFOR., Genel Currels ham Ht.; Home Matters, Britter
in E. The Archdeston of L. I. Sam Stang Eurchard. Misis acids. Currels (Contal) I. Canen (Them wan, Irpm
Eventus, Collection regale (Howells).
PRESSAME PRIMERIEM. And II. C. 30pm Parada Communiton. Petershield mass (Morely). The Rev Mary
McVicari. (Son Song Euchterst, Mesa twees (Kodaly).
Canen Jane Hedgiet, A. Shan Eventus, Howells in
G. The Rev John Hethkon.

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London Wit Ham Morning Praver, Arch Nazish Giartan. Chapt Rept. St. Lacrae. S. Palane, F. S'ban, H.C. 11.15 am Marmag. Prayer, A vast cloud of love 1 Popplewell, Capas D.C. Gray. Fit Bearts Dapped it he Saver, Sovey U.S., W.C.: 13.00 Magne, Here is the lattle door (Mowells), The Chap-lain, 12.30 pm 10c. Pages Rept., Tower of Londyer 9.15 cm HC, 11 am Matters, Ormes de Salve (Hand), Canon 1.21.M, M. Martins, Ormes de Salve (Hand), Canon 1.21.M, M. manet: In Canada I Laborata Service, Cary's In Chapta I Laborata Devine Service, I Laborat HC Hant Store, I Canada Andréy Street, Wich Lian HC: Hant Store Enchaires, Mans for the ventes (Byrd), The Rev Sentin Hobbs, Mans for the ventes (Byrd), The Rev Sentin Hobbs, Mans for the ventes (Byrd), The Rev Sentin Hobbs, Mans for the ventes (Byrd), The Rev Sentin Hobbs, The Canada (Sente Medical Service), Senting the Control of the Control of the Canada (Sente Medical Service), Senting the Control of th

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## Sanh, Lamphom Place, Wy. Sart HC: Ham, The Rev Dy John Stort (ASpan, The Rev John Cook, Changan of Chard, Old Chard, Store: 5W & San HC. Chan Chiffern's Server's 113m Malian. The Rev Dy P. Ely; [2,15pm HC: byan Eventone, Mr. D. Roven. Bay Halls, Recompton Road, 5W?: Start HC. The Rev Nicky Loc.; Ham Informal Service, The Rev Nicky Loc.; Ham Informal Service, The Rev Sundy Mills. Talpan Informal Service, The Rev Sundy Mills.

St. Minn in Hartyr, Holburth, E.C.1: V. Stein Song Meest; I lan Soleman Mans and Contensation. Deversit in D. The Bishop of Edmounter. St. Husbeth, Adapter, E.C.3: 10. Minn, Stong Euchards, Thilly Groom, S. Bishick, Flord Steech, E.C.4: 1 has Chornal Matton, and Inchards, Commy John Costes. S. Channel Sman, Sprand, W.C.2: 1 best Maxim, O. Good, when then appeared (Measuri), The Rev Peter Bods-to.

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3 Jain's, Startford Branchow, ELS: 11 am Family Servic. Chorale No. 3 (Fennist). The Rev Dark Brights Servic. Chorale No. 3 (Fennist). The Rev Dark Brights Sarvic. Sarvice Hand, N. Wall, Sarvic RC, Suthern Parkit Communion: 11 Jain Sang Englands, Main for four volice, Physiol. The Victar.

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3 Ragant in Baring Lower Thismes Street, ECS: 11 Jan. Sodenn Main.

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2 Rays as the Falks, WCC, Ram HC, 94 San Encharle, The Rev Bernhard Schotenesses. II 20mm Vestions to Loudon Service, The Rev Bernhard Schotenesses. 24 Spin Chlored Service, The Rev Globast Loc. Spin Chlored Evensurg, 6.30 pm. Evening Service, The Vestif. or 2 kiny Mints, Vicarage Gaie, We Sam RC: 9,30m Pareh Eucharist, The Vicar: 11.15cm Choud Maton, The Rev & Gell, 12,30m HC; a.Mpm Evenning, The Rev F Gell. Rev F Gelit.

3. Sany Sussignia, Kertologicu Fari, Road, SEII:

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Michael Hart; Span Maso,
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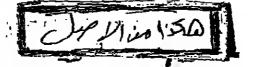
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NWC: 11am, The Rev Justich Willier-Reiger Tyme Berling Service.

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THURSDAY



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Television

by Gerard Gilbert

Horizon 8pm BBC2. Are current environmental predictions alarmist? Meet some conservationists who think they are – and dangerous to boot (349356). Classic Ships 8.30pm C4. We've had Classic Cars, Classic Trucks and Classic Bikes – now the ships and yachts that inspire. DJ John Peel, a little oddly, is the narrator (3165).

Cutting Edge 9pm C4 (above). The stories of four people who blew the whistle on illegality and malpractice (9436).

Radio by Adrian Turpin

Tahiti in a Cold Climate (8.45pm R4). St Kilda,a wind-cursed hunk of granite 50 miles west of the Outer Hebrides, must be one of the most Inhospitable islands ever lived on. This documentary explores the island's sorrowful history.

TUESDAY

The House 9:30pm BBC2. The management has a showdown with the chorus, who are dressed in Hebrew costumes at the time. Surreal (159127).

Film: Second Serve (Anthony Page 1986 US) 10pm C4. Vanessa Redgrave in the dual role of Richard Raskind and sex-change tennis player Renee Richards (65087). Inside Story 10.40pm BBC1 (above). More on Caroline Beale, the Essex woman who on Caroline Beale, the Essex woman who tried to smuggla her dead baby out of America. Bad or mad? (914301).

The Reith Lecturer Interview (8.30pm R4). What would Lord Reith have thought of the Professor of Language and Communication at Oxford giving lectures in his name? Jean Attchison introduces herself before her talks on the possibilities and pitfalls of language.

Under the Sun: Painted Babies 9,30pm BBC2 (above). A look at the beauty-contest circuit for tots in the Southern United States -a tale of driven parents and embiguous ideas about childhood (5573848).
Film: Nadine (Robert Benton 1987 US)
10.40pm ITV. Shakey married couple Jeff Bridges and Kim Basinger pull together to solve a murder (6381832).

The Big Idea 11:15pm BBC2. The Independent's Andrew Marr meets Francis "end of history" Fukuyama (654899). Folk on 2 (7pm R2). How did Bob Dylan get his first big break? Carolyn Hester tells Jim Lloyd about the day her harmonica-playing father couldn't make a recording, so she sent for an inexperienced young stand-in. The stuff of which rock n'roll legends are made.

Seasiders 9pm C4. Fly-on-the-whatsit documentary series about a summer holiday camp near Scarborough. It ain't the Royal Opera House, but it is a lot of tur. The moral? Big or small — don't let a camera team anywhere near you (9352).

Annie's Bar 9.30pm C4 (above). New point ical scap opera set around a House of Commons watering hole, and filmed just before transmission for maximum topicality. From the production company headed by Prince Edward (13401).

Cause Célèbre (9.30am R4). The series that gives human interest a good name returns with the tale of Patricia Caswell, who spent two days trapped in an ice cavern with her son and the body of her husband after an Alpine climbing holiday went horribly wrong.

Paul Merton in Galton and Simpson's...
Impasse 8.30pm ITV, Merton revives a
1963 Cornecy Playhouse script that
starred Leslie Philips and Bernard Cribbins. The subject is modern enough;
however — road rage (5802).
Film: The Secret of My Success (Herbert
Ross 1987 US) 9.30pm BBC1 (above).
Michael J Fox goes from post boy to
boardroom, and wins the girl (Helen
Slater) in yuppie famasy supreme
(724821).

Beam Me Up Scotty (R4 10am). John Peel steps away from pop music to boldly venture through space-age pop culture from 1929 to 1999. Why did the forward-looking optimism of Dan Dare give way to retrospection and cyritcism in the 1970s and 1980s?

# **Sunday Television and Radio**

### BBC<sub>1</sub>

7.05 Match of the Day – the Road to Wembley (R) (S) (7314461).

8.15 Suenos – World Spanish (4198374). 8.30 Breakfast with Frost (81138). 9.30 The Big Question. Mark Lawson talks to Lynda La

Plante (S) (3007022), 9.45 First Light. Liberal Democrat MP Oavid Alton discusses his faith (S) (451490).

10.15 See Hear! (S) (506729). 10.45 The French Experience (5) (1638935). 11.00 The 11th Hour. New tricks for old dogs (S) (48664).

12.00 CountryFile (S) (73490). 12.30 On the Record (41003). \*
1.30 EastEnders Omnibus (S) (5103480). \*
2.55 Australian Open Tennis. Highlights of this morning men's final (4367480).

3.45 Match of the Day Live - the Road to Wembley. Live coverage of the FA Cup fourth-round tie between Sheffield United and Aston Villa (5) (59927461).

6.05 News; Weather (602664), \* 6.25 Local News (408935). 6.30 Songs of Praise. Sir Harry Secombe visits
Ournifries (S) (722041). \*
7.05 Antiques Roadshow. From Stirling University,
where finds Include a first edition of Beatrix

Potter's Peter Rabbit (S) (691732), \* 7.50 Pie in the Sky. Fisher asks Crabbe to investigate

the rising number of garden thefts in Middleton, forcing him to team up with the National Horticultural Division (S) (695119). \* 8.40 News; Weather (731480). \* 9.00 A Mug's Game, Excellent new drama from Donna

Franceschild, who gave us one of the best new dramas of last year, Takin' Over the Asylum, set on Scotland's west coast, See Preview, p28 (301409). \* 9.55 Ruby Wax Meets Imelda Marcos. The title says it

all, as La Wax begins a new series of celebrity interviews. See Preview, p28 (S) (747848). \* 10.45 Everyman. The returning series takes a look at Christian Channel Europe, the first American-style religious sate![Ite channel In Europe. See Preview.

Photo-journalist Nick Nolte goes on assignment to Nicaragua to cover the Sandanista revolution against President Somoza and abandons his neutrality. A smart, well thought-out film, costarring Gene Hackman, Joanna Cassidy, Ed Hamis (as an American mercenary) and Jean-Louis Trintignant as a sleazy Frenchman working for the CIA (497157).

1.35 Weather (2740078). To 1.40am.

# BBC2

7.30 Children's BBC: Rupert. 7.35 The Adventures of Skippy. 8.00 Playdays. 8.20 Grimmy. 8.35 Jackanory: Here We Go! 8.50 Felix the Cat. 9.10 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles. 9.35 Phantom 2040. 9.55 Highly Sprung! 10.25 Grange Hill. 10.50 Agent Z and the Penguin from Mars. 11.15 As Seen on TV.

11.45 Star Trek (R) (1222393). \* 12.35 Fantasy Football League. Oani Behr and Danny Baker are the fantasy managers (6288393). 1.05 Singled Out. US dating game (32626645).

1.30 Regional Programmes (34374). 2.00 Miss Mrs Miniver (William Wyler 1942 US). You can either laugh at this idealised Hollywood version of middle-class British stoicism in the teeth of the Blitz, or you can ditch the propaganda, ignore the accents and enjoy it at face value - as well-staged melodrama, staming Greer Garson as the housewife superstar, holding

Greer Garson as the housewife superstar, holding her chin high as husband and son go to war (46017157).

4.10 Ski Sunday. The men's downhill from Sestriere In Italy (S) (8179119).

4.55 Rugby Special. Fifth-round highlights from the Pilkington Cup, including Newcastle vs Harlequins (S) (1002515). (S) (1993515). 5,55 Natural World. Wildlife in the Arctic (S)

(149374).6,45 The Big Trip. Continuing the travelogue series 6.45 The Big Top. Continuing the travelogue series following three couples as they make long journeys in different parts of the world. This week, Andrew and Matt reach Guyana, while Helen and Alison are still in Thailand (S) (432916). \*
7.30 Timewatch. How Sir Francis Drake met his end.

9.20 In Search of Power (213799).
9.10 The Tourist, History of the holiday camp – that Invention of the 1930s, Sir Fred Pontin and Lady 8utlin are among those Interviewed (490867).
10.00 East Leaving Normal (Edward Zwick 1992 US).

Normal, Wyoming and decide to decamp to Alaska (S) (983119).

11.50 Weatherview (814409). 11.55 (1922) He Walked by Nigh Anthony Mann 1948 US). Richard Basehart is terrific as a psychopathic thief and electronics wizard who keeps tabs on the police by monitoring their radios in this cultish, strikingly photographed B-classic (722374). \* To 1.15am.

See Preview, p28 (793799). \*

Bored housewife Christine Lahti and world-weary waitress Meg Tilley meet by chance in the town of

2.00 The Learning Zone. To 7.00am.
REGIONS. Wales: 1.30pm Welsh Lobby, 4.55 Scrum 5.
ML 1.30pm Now You're Talking. 1.55 Our

# ITV/London

6.00 GMTV. 6,00 The Sunday Review. 6.30 News and Sport. 7.00 The Sunday Programme (13044). 8.00 Disney Club. Guests are the singer Johnna and rugby player Kyran Bracken (\$) (35190480). 10.15 Link. How disabled people are portrayed in literature (\$) (7013041), \*

10.30 Sunday Matters, Can God and science exist sideby-side? Sue Cook and Roger Bolton ponder the imponderable. Including 11.00 Moming Worship from St Anthony's, Beeston, Leeds (S) (84732). 12.30 Crosstalk (62157).

1.00 News, Weather (28747664). \* 1.10 Jonathan Dimbleby. Dimbleby and his studio audience cross-examine another public figure

2.00 The Trail of the Incredible Hulk (Bill Bixby 1989 US). They said it. 8ill Bixby stars (21157). 3.30 Dr No (Terence Young 1962 UK). The first and most faithful of the James Bond adaptations sent 007 Sean Connery to Jamaica. The one where Ursula Andress walked out of the sea and into movie stardom (34225).

5.30 London Tonight (412515). 5.50 News, Weather (781157). 6.05 Captain Ron (Thom Eberhardt 1992 U5).

Disney comedy that ought to be made to walk the plank. Martin Short buys an old boat and hires sozzled pilot Kurt Russell to take his family to the Caribbean. Grim (S) (70950645). \*
8.00 A Touch of Frost. A beautiful woman found dead

in a car park leads David Jason's dour tec' into the heart of a religious community (S) (8041). \* 10.00 Lights, Camera, Action: A Centenary of the Cinema. Special effects. And we don't mean

Michael Aspel's year-round tan, but how they turn day Into night, make it rain on sunny days and all that stuff (S) (4848). \*

11.00 News, Weather (Followed by London Weather) (495003). \*

11.15 Spitting Image (S) (192003). 11.45 Compass, Travelogue. Two keen fishermen go in search of the coveted Golden Mahseer, a prized Indian game fish (R) (168206).

12.45 Escapist (Eddie Beverly 1983 US). A radio-Houdinl and promote his flagging station. You'd best escape to bed (102981). 2.25 Cue the Music. The Byrds (6639558).

3.25 The Big Land (Gordon Douglas 1957 U5). Cattle owners and grain farmers join forces to bring the railroad to Texas. For insomniacs and Alan Ladd fans only (785165). 5.00 ITV Sport Classics (R) (24691). 5.30 News (42900), To 6.00am.

# Channel 4

6.25 Trans World Sport (R) (8308916). 7.20 Take 5. With The Magic Roundabout, 8ush Tails, Natalie, Ivor the Engine and Joggy Bear (S) (3085770).

(3085/70). 7.45 The Magic School Bus (5) (30848). 8.15 Hong Kong Phooey (4124312). 8.30 Stunt Dawgs (9354664). 8.55 Biker Mice from Mars (R) (9373799).

9.20 The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (4958645).
9.50 Earthworm Jim (S) (1420848).
10.15 Saved by the Bell: The New Class (1243577). \*
10.40 Wise Up. Kids make their own reports, including a 12-year-old dyslexic who briefs an ad agency to

help him promote better understanding for sufferers (S) (4773003).

11.15 Rawhide (708585).

12.15 Mission Impossible (355645), \*

1.15 Football Italia, Parma vs Internazionale (62003401).

(63093409),
3.30 Short and Suite (2605867).
3.40 The Out of Towners (Arthur Hiller 1970 US), New York does its very worst to visiting Ohio businessman Neil Simon and his wife Sandy Dennis: strikes, blizzards, uncooperative locals and, of course, a mugging. Neil Simon wrote the original screenplay, and it all probably seemed so much fresher in 1970 (222393). \* 5.30 Hollyoaks, Last Monday's episode (R) (S) (428).

6.00 The Persuaders! Danny buys a country cottage (38190). \*

7.00 Time Team. Tony Robinson goes underwater – to the spot where, 20 years ago, a teenager scuba diving off a beach in Devon found a 400-year-old bronze cannon on the seabed (3119). \* 8.00 Wired World. Peter Curran presents this somewhat conventional global media view (how about a media series looking at the fastapproaching future?). This week has items on

underground Nigerian Journalist Babafemi O Jundu, life with the Newbury bypass protesters and India's first gay TV movie (S) (5747). 8.30 IIII Chisum (Andrew V McLaglen 1970 US). Cattle-rancher John Wayne isn't going to take the Injustices of land-grabber Forrest Tucker anymore

(74294683), \* W XXX. Pitt Cowboys. American football. If you can make head or tail of this sport, and don't merely think it looks like Rugby League played by Village People extras with no knowledge of offside laws, then no doubt you'll be hooked enough to catch the annual extravaganza, live and exclusive from the Sun Devil Stadlum. Gary Imlach is, naturally, your guide. See The 8ig Match, p28 (28038041). 76 3.30am.

# **ITV/Regions**

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THE TLES/TURNSHIR.

As London except: 12.25pm Tyrie: Newsweek (3827119), Works: Yan Can Cook (3836367). 2.00 Murder, She Whote: (3711595). 2.55 Films Carry on Constable (77273567). 4.30 The Richard Whiteley Show (333895-4), 11.45 Films: Reburn to the Blos Lagoon (75870). 1.40am Films: D. His Broot (78836097). 4.25-5. 20am beliefeld; (75.6501). 5.30am Joblinder (3753691).

Central As Lendon excepts 12.30pm Central Newsweek (5295683). 2.00 it's four Shout (2751). 2.30 Highway to Heaven (9752954). 3.25 Film: Condoman (59555428). 5.05 Carloon Time (4070954). 5.15 Our House (849409). 11.45 The War of the Worlds (365848). 12.40am Night Shift (6847707). 5.00am Jobinder (3239694). 5.20-5.30am Asian Sye (3338320).

RTV
As Loadon except: 12.25pm West: West Eye View
G827/19) Wales Primitims Dlay G827/19) 2.00 West:
The Middle Ages (2751). Wales: Welsh Agenda (2751).
2.30 West: West Match Plus (770). Wales: Socce Sunstay (770). 3.00 West: West Not Were Perse. 1/1886).
Wales: Sunwiel (1886). 3.30 Films The Dog Who Stopped
the War (5846/45). 5.15 Begfald Calé (849409). 11.45
Film: Nightmane at Bitter Chelk (275022). 1.30am Hotel Babylon (7065368). 2.10am (pat and Loud (6371/46).
3.10am Shift (9148813). 4.10am Filmsy Business
(78976368), 4.40-8.30am Films My Town (3959900).

MERIOMAI As Landon except: 12,30pm Seven Days (926)1790. 2.00 West You Were Here.,? (2751), 2,30 Films Furny Gid (65584428), 5,15 Dags with Dunber (849409), 11,45 Films Nightmens at Bitter Creek (275022), 1,30am Herbabylon (7065368), 2,10am Las and Loud (6537146), 3,10am Shift (9148813), 4,10am Furny Business (78976368), 4,40-5,30am Films My Town (3959900).

WESTCOMINY
As London except: 12.30pm Westcountry Update (525563), 2.00 The Middle Ages (2751), 2.30 Westcountry Weeleard Match (770), 3.00 Films A Star is Born (53733138), 5.05 Westcountry Carrieos (4070954), 5.15 Getavarys (849409), 11.45 Film: Nighthers at Bitter Creek (275022), 1.30am Hotel Babylon (7066368), 2.10am Late and Loud (6537146), 3.10am Shift (9148813), 4.10am Furry Business (78976368), 4.40-5.30am Film: My Town (3959900),

540
Ac C4 except: 8.55 Derms (8964732). 9.10 The Scort Whild Alex Mark (7504867). 9.40 Movieweith (5601577). 10.10 Hollycoles (6852770). 11.15 The Averages (708585). 1.15 Rownd a Round (624515). 1.45 Rap (76770225). 2.10 Decyr Tymor (3798645). 3.10 Pimrs Surdes (30441374). 5.00 Wild Britain (7645). 8.30 Pobol y Okm (37921645). 7.25 Dechrou Caral Dechrou (466119). 7.55 Newyddion (329409). 8.00 Twon (288009). 8.50 Y Part (22819). 9.50 Seith Ar Y Sul (504157). 10.05 San Seitan (829138). 10.25-10.35pm Closed Mondays (622312).

# Radio

Radio 1 (97.6-99.8MHz FM)

7.00am Kevin Greening 10.00
Dave Pearce 2.00 Soul on 5unday 4.00 UK Top 40 7.00 Signs of the Times 8.00 Radio I Rock Show 10.00 Andy Kershaw 12.00 Alas-tair Whitehead 4.00-6.00am Cive

Radio 2

7.00am Don Maclean 9.05 Michael Aspel 10.30 Hayes on 5unday 12.00 Desmond Carrington 2.00 Benny Green 3.00 David Jacobs 4.00 Those Beautiful Jacobs 4.00 Those beading Balled Years 4.30 Sing Something Simple 5.00 Frank Topping 7.00 Jeffrey Archer 8.30 Sunday Half Hour 9.00 Alan Keith 10.00 Taking Notes 12.05 Steve Madden 3.00 -7.00am Alex Lester

Radio 3

80.2-92 (Milt RIV)
6.15am Open University.
7.00 Sacred and Profane.
8.55 Choice of Three, With world music specialist Jo Shinner. 9.00 Brian Kay's Sunday Morning. 00 Brian Kay's Sunday Morning.
Rossini: Overture: The Thleving
Magple, Pachelbel: Canon and
Gigue, Purcell: Morning Hyrni;
Evening Hyrni. Brelt: Als ich an
einem Sonntagmurgen Frau Müller
trat. Vivaldi: Concerto in Finior.
Kreiteler 207.

Glinka: Three Dances. Kreisler, arr Rachmaninov: Liebesleid; Liebesfreud, Allegri: Miserere Vaughan Williams: Partita. Mon-teverdi: L'Orteo (excerpts). Composer of the Week. Janacels: Prelude: The Makropulos Case. Brahms: Schickalasiled. Schubert: Grand March in E flat (D819 No 1). Drawland: Lachrimae coactae;

Lowence: Lacrimae coaciae; Lacrimae amantis, Beethoven: Symphony No 4 in a flat. 12.15 Music Matters. 1.00 News; From the Proms 1995. Heinrich Schiff Icallo), Philadelphia Orchestra/Wolfgang Sawallisch. Wagner: Overture: Das Lelbesverbot. Hindemith: Cello Concerto. Strauss: Ein Heldenleben. 2.30 Spirit of the Age: The Sound

of Signs. (2/2).
3.30 Harewood House Concert.
Marie McLaughlin (soorano) and
Malcolm Marbneau (piano). Songs and arias by Cavalli, Schubert, Wolf, Fauré and

Rossini. (2/2). 5.05 The BBC Orchestras. BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra/ Jerzy Maksymiuk, Philip Fowke (pranol, Khachaturian: Piano



## Choice

In Taking Notes (10pm), a R2 Arts Programme special, Adam Sweeting of the Guardian investigates the history of popmusic writing. In the early Sixties, it consisted of little more than rehashing record company press releases. Since then it has become possibly the most influential form of journalism in Britain.

5.45 The Sunday Feature: Orlando and Friends. 6.30 City of London Sinfonia. Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No 6 in 3 flat, Hindemith: Five Pieces, Op 44. Bach: Branden burg Concerto No 2 in F. 7.30 The Sunday Play: A View to a

Haunt. 9.35 Choir Works. Brian Wright introduces Berlioz's sacred trilogy depicting Christ's childhood. 11.15-12.30am Record Review.

Radio 4 (92.4-94.6Mtz FM, 1984tz LYT) 6.00am News Briefing 6.10 Something Understood. 6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.
7.10 Sunday Papers.
7.15 On Your Farm.
7.40 Sunday.
8.50 The Week's Good Cause.

9.00 News.
9.10 Sunday Papers.
9.15 Letter from America.
9.30 Morning Service.
10.15 The Archers. 11.15 Mediumwave. 11.45 Sentimental Journey. (2/6). 12.15 Desert Island Oiscs. 12.55 Weather. 1.00 The World This Weekend.

1.55 Shipping Forecast.
2.00 Gardeners' Question Time.
2.30 Classic Serial: Sunset Song.
3.30 Pick of the Week. 4.15 Asia Gold. 5.00 News; Crimescapes. (4/6). 5.30 Poetry Please! 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.15 Feedback. 6.30 in Search of the National

Interest. 7.00 Children's ABC Radio 4: Tales from the Perilous Realm. 7.30 A Good Read. 8.00 (FM) The Natural History Programme. 8.00 (LW) Suenos – World Spanish. 8.30 (FM) That's History. 8.45 (LW) Francophonie. 9.00 (FM) First Person Plural.

9.30 (FM) Flashpoints. 9.30 (LW) Writer's Weekly. 10.00 News. 10.15 Medicine Now. 10.45 The Final Frontier.
11.15 in Committee,
11.45 Seeds of Faith, [1/6).
12.00 News.

12.30 The Late Story: From Marrakech. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service.

Radio 5 (83, 90bit MM)
6.05am 5traight Up 6.30 Brian
Hayes at Breakfast 9.05 Sunday
with Mair 11.35 Special Assignment 12.00 Midday Edition 12.15
The Big Byte 1.05 Balter and Kelly
Up Front 2.30 Gary Linefer's Sunday Sport 6.05 Jim and the Doc
7.00 News Extra 7.35 The Acid
Test 8.05 Taking Drugs Seriously
8.35 Asian Perspective 9.00 Dailyn
Worldwide 10.05 Out This Week
10.35 Crime Desk 11.05 Superbowl XXX 3.05 Up All Night 5.006.00am Morning Reports

Classic FM

(1003-101345tr Rt)
6.00am Sarah Lucas 9.00 Classic Romance 12.00 Celebrity Choice
1.00 Alan Mann 3.00 Masterclass.
4.00 Robert Booth 7.00 Book
Browse 8.00 Classic FM Evening
Weel Concert. 10.00 Howard's Week 12.00 Andre Leon 4.00-6.00am Mark Griffiths. Virgio Radio

World Service

(1215, 1397-1260) by 199 105,834b; FMI

1.50 World News 1.10 Press Review 1.15 Red Dwarf 1.30 Anything Goes 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Composer of the Lionth 3.00 World News 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Jazz for the Asking 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Off the Shell: Frenchman's Creek 4.45 Red Dwarf 9.15 (LW) Short Stories In Spanish. | 5.00 Newsday 5.30 Andy Kershaw

### **Satellite**

6.00am Hour of Power (61138). 7.00 Undun (104886). 10.00 Ghoul-Lashed (41352409). 11.45 The Perfect Family (1005683). 12.00 The Hit Mix (92312). 1.00 Star Trek (78732). 2.00 Brisco County Junior (56119). 3.00 Star Trek: Voyager (15799). 4.00 WWF Action Zone (94206). 5.00 Great Action Zone (54206): 5.00 Great Escapes (4751). 5.30 Mighty Mor-phin Power Rangers (6044). 6.00 The Simpsons (7577). 7.00 Bev-erty Hills 90210 (39367). 8.00 Star Tiek: Voyager (48515). 9.00 Highlander (28751). 10.00 Rene-gade (38138). 11.00 Selrifeld (95935). 11.30 Duckman (44374). 12.00 60 Minutes (66691). 1.00 5el-Wolf of London (66691). 1.00 She-Wolf of London (92691). 2.00-6.00am Hit Mix

Long Play (6243146).

SICY MOVIES 6.00am It Happened at the World's Fakr (1963) (43480). 8.00 Dodge City (1939) (70799). 10.00 A Child's Cry for Help 11994) (84393). 12.00 Lost in Yorkers (1993) (53022). 2.00 The First Men in the Moon (1964) (166003). 3.55 Son of the Pink Panther (1993) (922916). 5.30 m Your Wildest Dreams (1991) (77954). 7.00 Lost in Yonkers (1993) (56747). 9.00 Murder One (20119). 10.00 Alistair Maclean's Death Train (1994) (542521). 11.40 The Movie Show (840664). 12.10 The Pavor (1994) (586894). 1.50 Just Between Friends (1986) (990894). 3.40-6.00am A Better Tornonow

6.00am Scooby Doo and the Ghoul School 11988) (41022). 8.00 inhu-manolds (1986) (61041). 10.00 Jumping Jacks (1952) (82935). 12.00 Meet Me in Las Vegas (1955) (51664). 2.00 Web of Deception (1994) (10732). 4.00 The Counter-felt Contessa (1994) (6732). 6.00 Official Denial (1993) (30596). 8.00 Maverick (1993) (52415138). 10.10 Florile (1993) (736138). 12.10 Deep Red (1994) (2099252). 1.40 Betrayed (1995) (784320). 3.15-6.00am One Woman's Courage (1993) (25449788).

(1986) (79026146).

SKY MOVIES GOLD 12.00moon State Fair (1952) (74654), 2.00 hanhoe (1952) (94732), 4.00 it Started in Naples (1960) (7022). 6.00 The Man Who Knew Too Much (1956) (14596). 8.00 Mr Morn (1983) (19041). 10.00 This Island Earth (1964)

(597461). 11.35 Peoping Tom (1960) (175248). 1.20-3.05am The Severth Scal (1956) (928542).

HK GOLD 7.00am Give Us A Clue (8703935). 7.30 The Pink Parther (4768157). 7.35 Going fox Gold (5154288). 8.00 Spring and Autumn (6266935). 8.30 And Mother Makes Five (6265206). 9.00 The Pink Parither Show (7531848). 9.15 Dr Who (39153848). 12.00 Doctor at the Top (6269022). 12.30 it Ain't Half Hot, Mum (7630954). 1.00 Film: She Wore : Yellow Ribbon (7017374). 3.00 Yellow Ribbon (70173/4), 3.00 The Bill Ormibus (39612119), 5.15 Begerac (44080022), 6.20 Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em (1893181), 7.00 The Paul Daniels Magic Show (4426461), 8.00 Miss Marple, 4.50 from Paddington (58920428), 10.15 The Bob Medderen Show (6,1108312)

130324420, 10.15 The Bod Monthhouse Show (51198312), 11.20 A Very Peculiar Practice (8024751), 12.15 Reilly Ace of Spies (86697787), 1.20 Public Eye (8970287), 2.15-7.00em Shop-SELY SPORTS 7.00am American Cavalcade (20480), 8.00 International Motor sport (90848), 9.30 Skiff Sailing (87515), 10.00 Rugby Union Up-date (67751), 12.00 Goals on Sunday (24670). 2.00 Hold the Back Page (92935). 3.00 Gillette Word Sport Spacial (50/22), 3,30 Interna-tional Motosport (81/03), 5,00 Skiff Sailing (7867), 5,30 Goals on Sunday (60/283), 8,00 Champions of Sport (97/9691/93), 10,15 FA Cup Update (358190). 10.30-

2.30em The Super Bowl (6876041). 7.00am Soccer Extra (9855751). 11.00 Sports Unlimited 11.00 Sports Unlimited (7264041). 12.00 Golf (3410805). 4.30 Ironman Triathon (3600480). 6.00 Sailing (2817041). 6.30 Wold Pro Figure Seating (2999645). 8.30 Golf (1045596). 11.00 Snowboard Tour (4277461). 11.30 Sports Un-Irmled (8933393). 12.30-1.00am Powerboat World (3512271).

TAEJA 9.00am AM Live. 10.00 The Fasti-ion Show. 11.00 Video Box. 1.00 A Week in Review. 2.00 Sport Live. 5.00 Best of Buzzni. 7.00 Showbio Live. 6.00 A Week in Review. 9.00 The Fashion Show. 9.30 Video Box. 10.00 Stand-Up Live. 11.00 The Sex Show. 12.00 Stand-Up Live. 12.30 The Sex Show. 1.00 Night Hours.

# **Pastimes**

# **Chess** William Hartston

The era of Karpov and Kas- with the unlikely 28.Bd8! parov is drawing to a close and still had ecough left for crowns engaged in fierce making a contribution.

jostling for position. Vladimir Kramnik and Vassily Ivanchuk have proven themselves as good as anyone in tournament play, hut both disappointmeot last time in the world championship qualifying matches, when Gata Kamsky and Viswanathan Anand won through. And then there is Alexei

Shirov. In a class of his own when it comes to raw imag- 12 Bc4 Oxf6 nament in Wijk aan Zee.

19 Nf6+ Ke7 40 Rd8 Brf5
White sacrificed a piece in 20 Bg5 Bc7 41 Rxe8+ Kg7 the opening, won it back 21 Ne4+ Ke8 42 Rxe5 1-0

and every tournameot now a mating attack in the sees the pretenders to their endgame, with even his king White: Alexel Shirov **Black: Boris Gelfand** 1 e4 c5 22 Qg4 b5

23 Nf6+ Ke7 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 24 0-0-0 Qxg4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 25 Nxg4+ Kf8 26 Bh6+ Ke7 5 Nc3 a6 27 Bg5+ Kf8 6 Be3 e6 7 g4 e5 28 Bd8 Bxf5 8 Nf5 g6 29 Bxc7 Nc6 9 g5 gx65 30 Nh6 Bg6 10 exf5 d5 31 Rd6 Nb4 11 gxf6 d4 32 cxb4 Kg7 33 h4 Rbc8 ination, Shirov - or Planet 13 Nd5 Qc6 34 h5 Rxc7+ Shirov as he is respectfully 14 Bzd4 Bb4+ 35 Kd2 Be4 known by his peers – is quite 15 c3 Qxc4 36 Rg1 + Kh8 the most spectacular player 16 Be3 Ba5 37 Ke3 Bb7 around. Try this game for 17 Nf6+ Ke7 38 Red1 Re8 size, from the current tour- 18 Nd5+ Ke8 39 Nf5 Bc8

Perplexity Labour pains:

If GRAMMAR minus SCHOOL equals HARMAN and each distinct letter in the sum represents a different digit from 0 to 9, what is the value of GRAMMAR?

> A copy of the new Larousse Desk Reference Encyclopedia will be awarded to the first correct answer opened on 8 February. Entries to: Saturday Pastimes, the Independent, 1 Caoada Square, Canary Wharf, Loodoo E14 5DL. Entrants who misspell "Independent" or "Pastimes" will be unlikely to win.

13 January competition: J times MAJOR = TORIES is solved as either: 7 x 59718  $= 418026 \text{ or } 9 \times 40968 =$ 368712. So SMARTIES = 24083712 or 65984026. Winner: A Clark (York).

# **Bridge** Alan Hiron

Love all; dealer East North **♦QJ** ♥A 10864 **♦AJ3 4**975 East **♦**A43 **♦**K.2

♥Q75 **ØKJ93** ♦1098762 **♦**K **♣**AQ10864 South **41098765 ♦Q54** 

Speculative doubles can pay unexpected dividends. As Leo gleton club and ruffed the re-Baron once wrote: "If you

**♣**KJ3

don't sometimes double had played the jack. Although opponents unsuccessfully, you are not doubling enough.

The bidding needs some explanation: East opened 2 \(\tilde{\ni}\) (showing, in a modified Pre-cision Club System, 11-15 points - the singleton ♦ K was hardly full value - exactly four hearts and at least five clubs). South overcalled with 2 . West passed and North, clearly expecting more for a Two-level overcall, raised to 44. Whent his came round to West, he chanced a double.

wildest dreams. He led his sin-

the return had been a suit preference signal for a heart, Wrest sensibly switched to a diamood, for he knew that South held exactly one heart. Mistakenly, Sputh played low from dummy and, after winning with his singleton king, East returned his lowest club.

Again this was a McKenney suit preference signal and again West knew exactly what to do. After ruffing, he led his 02. East trumped with +2 and led yet another club for The result was beyond his the defenders to make their two top trumps separately.

It all added up to a turn of \$10 on which declarer delightful bonus of 800 points.



### The big picture Something Wild Sat 10pm BBC2

Lately there has been more interest in Melanie Griffith's (above) private life than in her movies. Yet she is the marvellously wacko Lulu in Jonathan Demme's genuinely imaginative comedy thriller, Something Wild. As her two partners - one strait-laced, the other psycho - Jeff Daniels and Ray Liotta both give lively performances, but it is Griffith's femme fatale with an unhealthy interest in bondage who steals the show. Like her hair, the film is not atraid to show its dark roots.

# Television preview

RECOMMENDED VIEWING THIS WEEKEND by Gerard Gilbert

surprised, what with that magazine's tendency to

tar the world's rich and famous with the same air-

brush; in fact it seems rather fitting - especially since

the rather distasteful Ruby Wax Meets... "Imelda

Marcos" (Sun BBC1) is a Hello! interview from hell:

the fawning format brutally subverted. When Imelda

says of her late husband. The was a great libertarian

and humanist", you really don't need Ruby winking

at the camera. But then, subtlety is not Ruby's game.

covers an old copy of Hello! in Marcos's living room,

but one with herself grinning impishly from the cover.

The coincidence seems genuine enough - and for-

tuitous, because Ruby's membership of the Hello! set

seems to embolden Imeida to even greater confi-

dences. She doesn't exactly admit to her husband's

complicity in assassination and torture - or their asset-

stripping of the Philippines for 20 years - but she does

show Ruby her collection of shoes. Mrs Marcos, hav-

ing successfully fought off charges against her in New

York, is now installed back in the Philippines and in

La Wax, would-be mistress of misrule, not only dis-



Divine Magic Sat 8pm C4 Timewatch Sun 7.30pm BBC2 A Mag's Game Sun 9pm BBC1 Ruby Wax Meets... Sun 9.55pm BBC1

Everyman Sun 10.45pm 88C1 melda Marcos reads Hello!. We shouldn't be that country's parliament, "One day, no doubt, we'll surprised, what with that magazine's tendency to have OJ for President," quips Ruby. And one day, no doubt, we'll have Ruby Wax Meets... OI Simpson.

"Oh come on, OJ, let's see the other glove..." The highlands and islands of Scotland, we have been told countless times, from Whiskey Galore! to Local Hero to Hamish Macbeth, are populated by gently individualistic souls far removed from the irksome realities of modern life. It's an escape fantasy, of course (in America they call it Northern Exposure), and one that Donna Franceschild's excellent new four-part drama, A Mug's Game (Sun BBC1) has no truck with. This is a love story set among the grim realities of the west coast fishing industry, and stars Ken Stott, the hospital DJ from Franceschild's Takin' Over the Asylum, as a Scottish-born Irishman come home to sort out an ailing fish farm.

Alright, class. Hands up who can tell me how and where Sir Francis Drake met his maker? Timewatch (Sun BBC2) reveals that it was off the coast of Panama, where the ageing privateer, heavily calls "happy, clappy, devil-stomping revivalists". It's depressed at having failed to steal the Spanish silver enough to make you teetotal.

reserves - and facing ruin - died, and was thrown into the deep. Shades of Robert Maxwell, in fact.

Now, if you give your body to science, you probahly expect researchers to test cancer cultures on your liver, or, at the very least, give your limbs to medical students to play practical jokes with. You probably don't expect to become the first cadaver in over 2,000 years to be mummified using the techniques of the ancient Egyptians. American Egyptologist Bob Brier is the man with the embalming fluid, part of Divine Magic's "Magic of the Mummies" (Sat C4), an unexpectedly fascinating overview of Pharaoh culture. Everyman (Sun BBC2) returns with a typically

fair-minded look at the first American-style evangelical Christian satellite channel in Europe, Christian Channel Europe. Joint founder, Wendy Alec, became a born-again Christian while drunk at a disco: she had a vision of Jesus in the ladies' loo. If everyone who had visions while pie eyed gave their lives to Jesus, we'd be a nation of what CCE's own publicity



### The big match Super Bowl XXX Sun 10.35pm C4

This is the weekend when supermarkets up and down the country traditionally find their stocks of Budweiser and hot dogs seriously depleted, as gridiron jocks gird their loins for the annual marathon that is the Super Bowl. This year's match at the Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, Arizona promises to be more closely-fought than most, as the toffs from the Dallas Cowboys (the favourites, with such stars as Emmitt Smith, above) take on the toughs of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

# Saturday Television and Radio

# BBC1

7.25 News; Weather (4492244).
7.30 Children's BBC; SuperTed. 7.35 The Artbox

Bunch. 7.45 Iznogoud. 8.05 Willy Fog. 8.30 The New Adventures of Superman (R) (S) (8855447). \*
9.15 Live and Kicking. East 17 are the main guests (S)

(68383398). 12.12 Weather (6949485). 12.15 Grandstand, 12.20 Football Focus: FA Cup fourthround preview. 1.10 News. 1.15 Tennis: the Ladie's Final of the Australian Open. 1.50 Skiing: the men's downhill in Sestriere, Italy. Defending his World Cup downhill title will be France's Luc Alphand. 2.15 ice-Skating: European figureskating championships from Sofia, Bulgaria. France's Surya Bonaly will be the woman to beat. 3.00 Rugby League: live coverage of the Sifk Cut Challenge Cup fourth-round tie between Castleford and St Helens, Commentary by Ray French, Joe Lydon and Terry Flanagan. 3.50 Football Half-Times, 4.00 Rugby League, 4.40 Final Score

(16756337). 5.15 News; Weather (4014398). \*

5.25 Local News, Weather (3051911). 5.35 Dad's Army. The men acquire a boat (R)

6.05 Jim Oavidson's Generation Game (S) (167331). \* 7.00 Noel's House Party (S) (657824). 7.50 The National Lottery Live. Dale Winton continues to stand in for Anthea, as diva Lesley Garrett presses the button. But remember: it's not over till the fat lady, etc... (331718).

8.05 Casualty. Tim McInnerry (Captain Darling in Blackadder) guests as a man with a drink problem (S) (326263).

8.55 News, Sport; Weather (Followed by National Lottery Update) (180331).\*

9.15 FIRE A Nightmare in the Daylight (Lou Antonio 1992 US). Charlie's Angel-turned-TV-movie queen Jaclyn Smith plays a teacher who is stalked by a man (Christopher Reeve) who thinks she is his wife, supposedly killed in an earthquake. Shades of Vertigo, but the only people suffering vertigo here are those with too-high expectations of this contrived nansense. Interesting to see Keev playing the bad guy, though (685244). \*

10.45 Match of the Day - the Road to Wembley. Extended highlights of three of today's top FA Cup ties, and all the goals from the rest (2833534).

11.55 ES Gator (Burt Reynolds 1976 US). Burt Reynolds doesn't seem to have been away from our screens of late - one of those coincidences of scheduling rather than signs of a revival, one hopes. This is Burt's directorial debut, a sequel to White Lightning, in which he resurrected his whisky-runner turned nark, Gator McKlusky. Costars Jack Weston and Lauren Hutton (891485).

1.50 Weather (2867799). To 1.55am. REGION5. Wates: 4,55pm Wates on Saturday. 5.25 Wales on Saturday.

# BBC 2

 50 GERA Design for Scandal (Norman Taurog 1941
US). Reporter Walter Pidgeon is sent to dig the dirt
on lady judge Rosalind Russell – and falls in love with her. Nippy comedy; nice performances (7470176).

8.15 Tennis. Highlights from the ladles' singles final at the Australian Open (57922468).

10.00 Nadan Nadia. Urdu comedy-drama starring Babra Shariff (S) (63393008).

11.50 Film 96 with Barry Norman, Sabrina, Waiting to Exhale, and Pedro Almodovar's The Flower of My Secret all get re-Bazza'd (S) (5396718). \*

12.20 James Cagney - Top of the World. Tribute nameted by Michael J Fox (R) (9142718). 1.05 III Yankee Doodle Dandy (Michael Curtiz 1942 US). A 43-year-old James Cagney turns in a wonderfully versatile song-and-dance routine in this big, brash patriotic wartime musical, telling the story of Broadway actor-playwright George M Cohan, who died that year (77191244).

3.10 [202] Tribute to a Bad Man (Robert Wise 1956

US). The amazing Cagney again – this time deputising for Spencer Tracy (who had walked off the set after a quarrel with director Wise), as a ruthless Colorado rancher whose wife (irene Papas) is receiving too much attention from young Don Dubbins. A fine, underrated and beautifully photographed western (7647094). 4.40 Best of Esther (R) (S) (7325973).

5.10 The Oprah Winfrey Show (7686060). 5.50 TOTP2 (S) (706244). 6.35 Ice-Skating: European Figure Skating Championships. Highlights of the week's action

(584379). 7.15 News and Sport; Weather (647621). \* 7.30 Scrutiny. MPs' attempts to rid the country of arcane regulations, such as a 1780 Act which forbids one to charge for dancing on a Sunday - or much of the red tape surrounding greyhound racing 8.05 The Trial. The re-run real-life Scottish court case

series spotlights defence lawyer George More (R) 9.00 Knowing Me, Knowing You... with Alan Partridge

9.30 Peter York's Eighties. Joan Collins (aka Alexis Carrington), Peter de Savary and Lord Young get walk-on roles, as York remembers the advent of the entrepreneur as star (97466). \*

10.00 EISS Something Wild (Jonathan Demme 1986 US). Jeff Daniels becomes a yupple-in-peril after he meets wild-child Melanie Griffith. See The Big Picture, above (569878). \* 11.50 Weatherview (946008).

11.55 ELM L'Homme de Ma Vie (Jean-Charles Tacchella 1995 Fr/Can). Comedy starring the Portuguese actress Maria de Madeiros, as a woman who is made redundant and decides that hooking a wealthy husband would be better than finding a new job (390331). To 1.45am.

# ITV/London

6.00 GMTV. 6.00 News; Weather. 6.10 Re:Win.d. 6.40 Eat Your Words, 7.10 Barney and Friends, 7.45-8.55 Saturday Disney 8.55 Power Rangers (2446008).

9.25 Teleganticmegavision. Soldier, Soldier actorturned-pop-star Jerome Flynn talks about his love of dolphins, while we get to meet Eliza Szonert, Darvelle Stark in Neighbours (4953350). 10,25 ht's Not Just Saturday. Guests include the Shamen,

Tristan Banks from Home and Away, and agony unde Nick Fisher (S) (4680244). 11.30 The Chart Show (R) (S) (63398).

12.30 Flantastic (S) (42076). 12.30 Flantastic (S) (42076). 1.00 News, Weather (73961843). \* 1.05 Local News, Weather (73960114). \* 1.10 Movies, Games and Videos (32666263). 1.40 Airwolf (R) (7621824).

2.45 International Athletics: Great Britain vs Russia The BUPA International from the National Indoor Arena, Birmingham - the major UK meeting of this

Olympic year (850621). 4.45 News; Sport; Weather (3086089). 5.05 Local News, Sport (3628553). 5.20 New Baywatch. A master of disguises escapes from a mental hospital, just for the fun of terrorising Stephanie and Logan. You can see his point (S)

(9111282). \* 6.15 Barrymore. Returning to the studio for the first series of this show since he outed himself (S) (922<del>9</del>92). \*

 7.15 Blind Date. How did Amy and James get on in Holland? (Including Lottery Result) (S) (928176). \*
 8.15 Beadle's Hot Shots. Viewers spoof TV and the movies with their camcorders - and sometimes their pets, as in tonight's Dog Trek (S) (248282). \* 8.45 News; National Lottery Update; Weather

9.00 Files Die Hard (John McTiernan 1988 US). Bruce Willis vs Alan Rickman in office-block pyrotechnics, the best so far of these John McClane adventures. Bonnie Bedelia plays the kidnapped wife in a terrific smash-bang-wallop thriller that

made an unlikely action hero out of Willis 11.25 The Dead Pool (Buddy Van Hom 1988 US). Fifth outing for "Dirty Harry" Callahan – and things have gone downhill fast. Clint investigates a spate of slayings that seem to point to sleazo British film director Llam Neeson. This won't make anybody's day (S) (517911).

1.00 Funny Business. With Norman Wisdom acolyte

Lee Evans (73022). 1.30 Pyjama Party. Katie Puckrik gets to grips with guest Claudia Schiffer (S) (4445577).

2.55 God's Gift (R) (7027461). 3.50 Shift (1361138). 4.45 ITV Sports Classics II (19469886). 5.05 Coach (S) (8427914).

5.30 News (64799). To 6.00am.

# Channel 4

6.05 Sesame Street (R) (2936805). 7.05 Utysses 31 (R) (3004805). 7.30 Super Mario Brothers (R) (6173621). 7.40 First Edition. Jon Snow makes the news accessible to children (3467.398).

8.00 Trans World Sport (81176). 9.00 The Morning Line (S) (83447).

10.00 Don't Look Down. Indoor climbing joins the list of minority sports televised on C4 (93737).

11.00 Gazetia Football Italia. Look forward to tomorrow's live clash between internazionale and Parma

12.00 The Late Late Show (S) (5265824). 12.55 Steaming Passions. Nigel Farrell meets women involved in the more normally male world of steam trains (R) (8063350). \* 1.55 Channel 4 Racing, From Doncaster, If cancelled

because of weather, an alternative schedule will be shown as below until 4.35pm (19792973).

1.55 NEW Virginia City (Michael Curtiz 1940 US). Ambitious but miscast Civil War western (Humphrey Bogart as a slimy Mexican bandit?) also features Errol Flynn, Randolph Scott and, as a

rebel spy, Miriam Hopkins (S) (19792973). 4.10 Sun and the Sement. 4.35 Dr Seuss on the Loose (R) (7351398). 5.05 Brookside Omnibus (S) (2635718). \* 6.30 Right to Reply. Roger Bolton with more viewers' reports and Ideas about television (S) (263). \*

7.00 A Week in Politics (5060). 8.00 Divine Magic. Egyptologist Bob Brier shows how magic was an everyday part of life in ancient Egypt. See Preview, above (S) (1008). \*

9.00 Auf Wiedersehen Pet. The 1980s Geordie brickles saga. Work at the Manor grinds to a halt when it is discovered to be a listed building (1767534). \* 10.05 Father Ted. TV star Henry Sellers arrives to judge the All-Priests Stars in their Eyes Lookalike Competition, Cult comedy (R) (S) (433756). \* 10.35 Eurotrash, Jean-Paul Gaultier and Antoine de

Caunes lock at the delights of cyber-sex via an interactive sex suit (R) (S) (645350). 11.10 The White Room, With Smashing Pumpkins, the Pretenders, Lush, Definition of Sound, Oasis, Joan Osborne, and US dance act, BT (S) (892331).

12.10 Late Licence: The Girlie Show. From last night (R) (S) (8592C41). 1.00 The Legend of the 4 Kings. Manga (\$) (2737935). 1.55 Twilight Zone. Eillet Gould plays an arrogant restaurant critic who gets his comeuppance, while in "A Small Talent For War", the aliens that engineered evolution two million years ago decide that the human race isn't up to scratch, and must

be eliminated (S) (6413312). 2.20 Baadasss TV, Earry White guests (R) (S)

2.50 8ig Girl's Blouse (7482770). 3.15 Paris. Alexel Sayle's critically panned attempt to Blackadder-ise the Paris art scene of the 1920s (R) (S) (68119), \* To 3,45am.

# **ITV/Regions**

ANGLIA
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (42076). 1.10 Warner Cartoon (73958379). 1.20 Film: The Magician (5256282). 11.25 Film: Carry On Henry (711599). 1.05am Pylama Party (9958157). 2.30am Furny Business (13008). 3.00am Film: Ho! (47585). 5.00-5.30am Wanted Dead or Alive (39190).

TWE TES/TORISHRE
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (42076). 1.10 Film: The That of the Incredible Hulk (69029350). 5.10 Tyne: Full Time (4000195). Torks: Scoreline (4000195). 1.05am Funny Business (6963799). 1.35am Pyjama Party (4444848). 3.00am Coech (93886). 3.30am War of the Worlds (5254190). 4.20am Cue the Music (5543138). 5.15-5.30am Profile (6378429).

As Lordon except: 12.30pm Heartland (42076). 1.40 Cartoon Time (42366176). 1.50 Knight Rider (4188911). 5.10 Cartoon Time (4000195). 3.50am Jobfinder (2463935). 5.20-5.30am Asian Eye (3441848).

As London except: 12,30pm California Off Seat (42076). 1.40 Cartoon Time (42375824). 1.45 Knight Rider (417485), 11,25 Film: Carry On Henry (711599). 1.05am Pyjama Party (9958157). 2.30am Funny Business (13008). 3.00am Film: Hel (47585). 5.00-5.30am Wanted Dead or Alive (39190).

SECTION ASSESSED.

MERINAN As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (42076). 1.10 The Big Byte (32676640). 1.35 Warner Cartoon (17850350). 1.50 Anvoll (4188911), 11.25 Film: Carry On Henry (711599). 1.05am Pyjama Party (958157), 2.30am Finny Business (13008). 3.00am Film: Hol (47585), 5.00-5.30pm Engagene (2010). 5.30am Freescreen (39190).

WESTORMAN
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (42076), 1.10 Sturministers (7901008), 1.50 Airwolf (4188911), 1.05am Pyjama Party (9958157), 2.30am Funny Business (13008), 3.00am Film: Hol. (47585), 5.00-5.30am Wanted Dead or Alive (39190).

As C4 except: 7.00am Ulysses 31 (85718). 10.00 Champions: Football Crazy (93737), 11.00 The Persuaders: Someone Walting (3737), 4.35pm Living Memory: The 1980s (7351398), 4.35 Living Memory: The 1980s (7351398), 6.30 Holyander (262), 70. New York (262), lyoaks (263), 7.00 Newyddion Nos (4008), 7.15 A55 (982114), 8.15 Y Ffordd I John O'Groats (246824). 8.45 Liwytan (245195), 9.20-11-10pm Film: Butterbox Babies. The true-life story of Lifa and William Young who instituted the Ideal Maternity Home in Nova Scotia during the Depression and the Second World War. The home was eventually exposed as a front for a catalogue of crimes, including filegal adoption and the buriel of illegitimate infants. Starring Susan Clark: Pater MacNeill and Michael Riley (37,6602).

### Radio

### Radio 1

(97.5-99.8MHz FM) 7.00am Kevin Greening 10.00 Dave Pearce 12-30 Danny Baker 2-30 Jo Whiley 5.00 John Peel 7.00 Danny Ramphing 9.00 Ra-dio 1 Rap Show 12.00 Essentia Tour Live in Birmingham 4.00-7.00am Lynn Parsons Radio 2

6.00am Mo Dutta 8.05 Brian Matthew 10.00 Judi Spiers 12.00 Hayes on Saturday 1.30 Hancock's Half Hour. See Choice. 2.00 Mar-tin Kelner on Saturday 4.00 Nick Barraclough 5.00 Joe Brown in Concert 6.00 Are You Dancin'? 7.00 Dr Who 7.30 The Lights Side 9.30 David Jacobs 10.00 Sheridan Morley 12.05 Charles Nove 4.00-7.00am Mo Dutta

190.2-92.4MHz FMO 7.00am Record Review.
9.00 Building a Library. John
Deathridge compares recordings of Beethoven's Missa Solemi

10.15 Record Release. Haydn: String Quartet in E flat, Op 33 No 2. Spohr: Septet in A minor. 11.15 Reissues. 12.00 Private Passions. With actress Sian Phillips. 1.00 News; Layer by Layer. Ar-chaeologist Andrew Jones concludes his series of dies in

Caerwent, the Roman capital 1.25 Youth Orchestras of the World. Victory: March Bizarre. Edward McGulre: Scirocco. Bedford: Sun Paints Rainbows on the Vast Waves, John Barnes Chance: Incantation and Dance. Vaughan Williams: English Folk Song Suite. AJ Potter: Finnegan's Wake (Irish Youth Wind Ensemble/James Cavanagh). Michael Norris: Waltz for strings. Dvorak: Serenade in E for strings (Netherlands Youth String Orchestra/Roland Kleft). 3.10 Harewood House Concert. Ernst Kovacic (violin), David Owen Norris (piano), Ravel: Viotin Sonata, Brahms: Violin Sonata in A, Op 100. Kreisler: style of Pugnani; Liebesleid; Gypsy Romance, Tambounn chinois; Syncopation; Bercause romantique: La citana: Chanson Louis XIII and Pavane in the style of Couperin; La Chasse in the style of Cartler; Old German

Angry Hencock devotees dismayed to find Paul Merton mugging his way through Twelve Angry Men last night on ITV can take refuge in Hancock's Half Hour (1.30pm R2). It's the one in which they find an unexploded bomb in the cellar. Meanwhile, Rossini's The Barber of Seville comes Live from the Met (6.30pm R3).

Berr: Wind Quartet No 1 In F. 5.00 Jazz Record Requests. 5.45 Music Matters. Ivan Hewett previews a major exhibition tocusing on the work of impre-

sario Sergei Diaghilez.

6.30 Live from the Met: The Barber of Seville. By Rossini. Ruth Arn Swenson (soprano), Raul Gimenez (tenor), Chorus and Orchestra of the Metropolitan Opera/Adam Fischer, Act 1. (8.05-8.35 The Met Opera Quiz.) Act 2. See Choice. 9.30 Best Words. Michael Rosen talks to Scottish poet Robert Crawford about his new collec-

tion Masculinity. 10.00-1.00am Cedar Walton and James Moody. Alyn Shipton in-troduces highlights of two sets recorded at Ronnie Scott's club in London, featuring saxophonist and flautist James Moody, and planist Cedar Walton.

Radio 4 1924-94-6NUz FN; 1984bz LW) 6.00am News Strefing. 6.10 Farming Today 6.50 Prayer for the Day. 6.55 Weather. 7.00 Today. 8.58 Weather 9.00 News. 9.05 Sport on 4. 9.30 Breakaway. 10.00 News; Loase Ends. 11.30 From Our Own Correspon-

12.00 Money Box. 12.55 Weather. 1.10 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby's guests in Margate are lournalist Janet Daley; Baroness Jay of Paddington; the Rt Rev Dr Michael Nazir-All, Bishop of Rochester; and the Rt Hon Sir George Young MP, Sec-retary of State for Transport.

# Choice

With Brian Hibbard. 3.45 Back Here. Stephen Perry, back in the UK after working in

11.00 News; The Week in West-

1.55 Shipping Forecast.
2.00 News; Any Answers?
2.30 Saturday Playhouse: Stars in Their Eyes. A radio musical by John Lovat and Tim Riley.

America, compares life here with there.
4.00 News; That's History. 4.30 The Final Frontier. Jez Nel-son explores the physical and psychological barriers that must be overcome for success 5.00 Consequences. Paul Lewis

considers the fallout of Norman Fowler's reforms on pension schemes, (4/4), 5.40 Starwatch. From her back garden in Buckinghamshira, Heather Couper presents a live link-up with astronomers round the world. (3/6). 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.25 Week Ending. 6.50 Postcard from Gotham. 7.20 Kaleidoscope Feature. A cel-ebration of Coleridge's tamous poem The Rime of the Ancient Mariner, featuring the thoughts of David Bedford, Michael Bogdanov, General Sir John Hackett. Pauline Stainer and Richard Holmes.
7.50 Saturday Night Theatre: The
High Frontier. In Roger Sten-

nett's drama, a cosmonaut is preparing to return home after a year in space. But while he has been away, the old Soviet Union has collapsed and with It his beliefs and dreams. Based on the real life story of cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev. With David Hargreaves and Shaun Prendergast. 9.20 Music in Mind. 9.50 Ten to Ten. 9.59 Weather. 10.00 News. 10.15 Stanza on Stage. Simon

### poet Glyn Maxwell in perfor-mance at the 1995 Edinburgh Festival. 10.45 Fedback, Piers Bishop

sorts through letters sent to the Radio Times during the Twenties and Thirties. 11/4).

11.00 Touch of Genius. The popular planist George Shearing, now in his seventies, talks to June Knox-Mawer. (3/4).

11.30 The Hitch-Hiller's Guide to the Galaxy. By Douglas Arlans.

the Galaxy. By Douglas Adams. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Story: A Trip to Tortugero by John Latham. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00am As World Service.

Radio 5 (693, 909Hz WM) 6.05am Dirty Tackle 6.30 Brian Hayes at Breakfast 9.05 Weekend with Kershaw and Whittaker 11.05 Top Gear 11.3S Crime Desk 12.00 Midday Edition 12.15 Sportscall 1.00 Sport on Five 6.06 Six-O-Six 7.35 Straight Up 8.05 The Box 8.35 Dallyn Saturday 10.05 The Treatment 11.00 Night Extra 12.05 After Hours 2.05-6.05am Australian

Classic FM

100.0-101.1Mitz FM 6.00am Sarah Lucas 9.00 Classic Countdown 12.00 Classic Garden-ing Forum 1.00 Alan Mann 3.00 The Saturday Alternative 6.00 Classic America 7.00 The World Coara Season, Saverio Mercadente: Orazi e Curiazi. Nelly Miricioiu, Anthony Michaels-Moore, Geoffrey Mitchell Choir, Philharmonia Orchestra/David Parry. 10.00 Classic Quiz 12.00 Andre Leon 4.00 Classic Countdown 5.00-6.00am Michael Fanstone

Virgin Radio (1215, 1197-1260Mz MW JOS 8MHz PM) 6.00am Janey Lee Grace 10.00 Richard Skinner 2.00 Mark Forrest 6.00 Mitch Johnson 10.00 Robin Banks 2.00-6.00am Howard Pearce World Service

100am World News 1.10 Press Review 1.15 The Traditions of the Prophet 1.30 From Our Own Come spondent 1.50 Write On 2.00 Sports Roundup 3.30 Fourth Estate 3.45 Science View 3.50 Waveguide 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Short Story 4.45 A World in Your Ear 5.00 Newsday 5.30 in Praise of God

# **Satellite**

7.00am Undun (236485). 10.00 Ghoul-Lashed (31824), 12.00 WWF (34911), 1.00 The Hit Mix (10331). (9447) 3 00 One West Walleki (57398). 4.00 Kung Fu, the Legend Continues (36805). 5.00 The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles (6485). 6.00 WWF (30195), 7.00 Sliders (71466), 8.00 Unsolved Mystenes (80114), 9.00 Cops (32089), 9.30 The Serial Killers (35640). 10.00 Saturday Night, Sunday Morning (95534). 10.30 Revelations (60422). 11.00 The Movie Show (37534). 11.30 Forever Knight

(17602), 12.30 WKRP in Cincinnati

(50022), 1.00 Saturday Night Live (31490), 2.00-6.00am Hit Mix Long

6.00am Sirocco (1951) (92379). 8.00 Gigi (1958) (12398), 10.00 And Then There Was One (1994) (26992). 12.00 Super Merlo Bros (1993) (95621). 2.00 MacShayne: Winner Takes All (1994) (31282), 3.30 Absert Without Leave (1992) (462350). 5.25 Revenge of the Nerds IV. Nerds in Love (1994) (29110602). 7.00 Super Mario Bros (1993). Fantasy adventura starring Bob Hoskins (43756). 9.00 Murder One, Courtroom drama (62718). 10.00 A Perfect World (1993), Road movie with Kevin Cost-ner and Clint Eastwood (46584176). 12.20 Midnight Confessions (1993) (2194751), 1.50 Used People (1992)

(828119). 3.45-6.00am Shootfighter

6.00am Yogi Bear and the Invasion of the Space Bears (83621). 8.00 We're Back! A Dinosaur's Story (1993) (7294718), 9.15 The Corsican Brothers (111824), 10.15 The Morriny Market (1993) (41366602). 12.00 Easy to Love (1953) (93263). 2.00 The Whipping Boy (1994) (52331). 4.00 Seasons of the Heart (1994) (9331). 6.00 A Time to Heal (1994). Drama starring Nicollette Sheridan and Gary Cole (72195). 8.00 The Naked Gun 3318: The Final Insult (1994). Comedy starting Leslle Nielsen and Prischla Presley (77640). 10.00 Needful Things (1993). Horror drama starting Ed Harris and Max Von Sydow (49379), 12.00 Dangerous Touch (1993). Thriller starring Lou Diamond Philips and Kate Vernon (416577), 1.45 Man's Best Friend (1993) (245954), 3.15-6-00am Ar-

cade (1993) (25545916). SMY MOVIES COLD 4.00pm Star Wars (1977) (6718). ma staming Ray Milland (55195). 8.00 Reggedy Man (1951). Romantic drama starring Sissy Spacek and Eric Rosers (51540). 10.00 Star Wars (1937). Self-drama draman Mark (1977). Sci-fi crame starring Mark Hamill and Harrison Ford (72035176). 12.05 The Day of the Jacket (1973) (25621003), 2.30-

4.10am Nosferatu the Vampyre

(1979) (299799). DK GOLD

7.00am Give Us a Clue (8736263). 7,30 The Pink Panther Show (4791485), 7,35 Going for Gold (1859076), 8,00 Warship (3855244), 9.00 Secret Army (2123466), 10.00 Neighbours (8331824), 2.30 EastEnders (79715973), 5.15 Till Death Us Do Part (7915468), 5.50 The Fall and Rise of Regnald Pernn (7516114). 6.30 It Ain't Half Hot Murn (5187398). 7.05 The Upchat Line (8648602). 7.40 Bread (5035534). 8.20 The Bill (12499718), 9.25 Count Dracula (22111114), 10.55 Film: Grievous Bodily Harm (95421737). 12.45 Film: Father, Son and the Mistress (8587138). 2.30-7.00am Shopping (9824409).

SIO SPORTS 7.00am Skiff Salling (74640), 7.30 Racing News (60447), 8.00 Basket-ball (690447), 10.30 American 5ports Cavalcade (10669), 11.30 Futbol Mundial (99398). 12.00 5ports Saturday (9969422). 5.30 Futbol Mundial (6379). 6.00 FA Cup Fourth Round Special (18911). 8.00 round round special (1997), 5,00 toe Hockey - Live (25973), 9,30 Hold the Back Page (48027), 10,30 Bushido (25244), 11,30 Rugby Union Update (77824), 1,30 Hold the Back Page (79848), 2.30-3.30am Bushido (98312).

SRY SPORTS 2 7.00am Soccer AM (9895379). 11.00 WWF (7204669). 12.00 Ringside Boxing (6805242). 2.00 Rugby Union - Line (4173094), 4.30 Golf USA (4325398), 6.30 American Sports Cavalcade (2184534), 7.30 Golf USA - Live (1074008), 10.00 Galf USA - Live (4229824). 12.00 World Sport Special (7050935). 12.30-1.00am World of Speed and Beauty (3625799).

9.00am AM Live 10.00 The Fashion Show 11.00 Video Box 1.00 The Week in Review 2.00 Sports Live 6.00 Best of Buzzin' 8.00 Showbiz Live 9.00 The Fashion Show 9.30 Video Box 10.00 Stand-Up Live 11.00 The Sex Show 12.00 Stand-Up Live 12.30 The Sex Show 1.00-



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Shepherd's Madrigal: Marche miniature viennoise. (1/2).

# at Rocco's gate

the bid, and were asked to prepare a holding statement if an offer materialised. Sir Rocco, for his part, was in Yorkshire, preparing to shoot grouse.

### 2. Into Battle

Sir Rocco Forte had been Schief executive of Forte for 15 years. But he had only really taken full control in 1993, when his father finally stepped aside. Since then, the company had at last beguo to make progress. Unwanted assets were sold off. A new chain of hotels, Meridien, was bought and the tired restaurants received attention for the first time in years. The new management team – which included, crucially. Keith Hamill as finance director – was given the benefit of the doubt in the City. The message, that Forte was a company at last on

the mend, was getting through.
"We had no idea the bid was coming," says a key adviser on Forte's defence team. "We certainly didn't think someone who knew absolutely nothing about the business would mount an attack."

From the start, then, the battie was all about who could
manage the Forte assets hest:
cost-cutting Robinson, the man
who famously worked only four
and a half days a week, or Sir
Rocco, the patrician workaholic who had long ago abandooed his playboy ways. That
the two men did not like each
other became clearer by the
day. Robinson made fun of Sir
Rocco's shooting holiday, while
Sir Rocco said famously that
"all [Robinson] knows about
marketing is his big mouth".

Sir Rocco was appalled that the company his family had built, and that he, at last, was running, could be taken away from him. He was convinced the City would back him if he could just explain his vigorous plans for the future. He returned to London on the day of the bid to a frenzy of calls from shareholders, analysts and reporters.

reporters.

That day and the next, a defence team was hastily formed, hringing together Forte's standing advisers, SBC Warburg's John Howath, Morgan Stanley's Michael Tory and UBS's Oliver Pawle. An old school friend of Sir Rocco, Roberto Mendoza, was critical to the preparation of Forte's defence. Formerly one of the world's top fund managers, Mendoza is vice-chairman of US banking giant IB Morgan.

Mendoza is vice-chairman of US banking giant JP Morgan. "That first day was the low point of the whole hid," says a participant. "Nothing thereafter could match the shock,

A shaken Sir Rocco also called in the help of establishment friends, who provided some welcome support in the larkest days of the battle. No more useful ally emerged than Max Hastings, the new editor of the Evening Standard, whose newspaper championed Forte till the bitter end. Hastings even set up a meeting between Sir Rocco and Sir Christopher Bland, the chairman of LWT at the time of Granada's hostile pid. Sir Rocco was told he could get pointers on Robin-

on's weaknesses.
But the hard work occurred at

Forte's head office in High Hotborn, where Keith Hamill's finance team put in 17 hours a day for 10 days, preparing Forte's critical defence document.

From the start, the team considered radical options, including a dismemberment of the company. Sir Rocco would later insist that the demerger plan, whereby the restaurants would be hived off from the hotels, had been in the works for months.

Granada's bid strategy had heen simplicity itself: an opening shot of £3.3bn, a merciless attack on Forte's indifferent profit performance and a promise to turn around the key operations.

Bui Forte's response was, Robinson concedes, "sparkling". Asset dispoals were brought forward, with Lillywhite's and Griersons sold within days of the launch of the bid. On 7 December, Forte released a robust defence document promising sharply higher profits.

A phony war was lauoched, as the two sides traded insults, rubbished each other's strategy and busily began talking to key institutional shareholders. From the beginning, Granada had decided to leave the field during the middle weeks of the bid to Forte. "We knew that this thing would be decided by 35 institutions," Allen says. "We went to them at the beginning of the bid, and then left them a period to reflect."

a period to reflect."

Forte took another tack,
peppering the media with press

Granada

1991 92 93 94 95

earnings per share (pence)

1991 92 93 94 95

Share prices

eletive toFT-A all share index-

pre-tax profit (£m)

releases, indeed, rival PR firms believe the Forte strategy was too focused oo the media, rather than on institutions.

But in secret, Forte was working up its trump card, a move that would change the momentum of the bid and give Robinsoo his first real fright.

### 3. The final clash

On Christmas Eve, with Robinson lucked up safe at his ancestral home in Donegal, Ireland, a Sunday newspaper trumpeted the news: hrewing giant Whitbread was buying Forte's restauraots business for £1.05bn. The very assets Robinson most coveted were to be sold off in a desperate attempt to foil the bid. By the following week, Forte added the kicker: £800m would be awarded to loyal shareholders through a massive share huy-hack

"I certainly had a moment of doubt," Robinson says. There were even whispers that the bid could be dropped altogether. But by the end of the week, he had changed his mind. "We could see that the share buyhack wasn't going to work, and that shareholders did not believe it."

On the weekeod of 6 January, the Granada team began a marathon session at company headquarters. It was time to decide by how much to increase the bid. "We always knew the initial bid was an opening shot,"

an insider says. Soundings in the City made

**Forte** 

1991 92 93 94 95 96

earnings per share (pence)

pre-tax profit (£m)

Granada hurdles flat Forte

it clear that Granada could not raise more money, and the option of a special dividend looked attractive. Ironically, it was the level of financial detail provided in the Forte document that convinced Robinson he didn't need fresh funds: Forte shareholders who sold their stakes to Granada would get the special divideod out of Forte's own reserves. In other

words, the prey, not the predator, would pay.

At the same time, Lazard were deep in conversations with the Council of Forte to buy the special 50 per cent stake. The Council first demanded £250m, while Granada suggested £10m. On Monday, 8 January, a day before Granada's final offer for Forte was due, the Council and Lazard settled on £50m.

Forte's advisers concede that the revised offer, worth £3.8bn, allowed Granada to regain the momentum. It provided an opportunity, too, for Robinson to drop any pretence about running the upmarket hotels, which he had never much cared for anyway. The revised offer was a blunt leveraged buyout, using Forte's own reserves and the promised sale of £2bn in assets to pay for the deal.

"It was so distressing," a
Forte team member says.
"Everyone forgave him the Uturn, and that was when we
realised everyone wanted him
to win."

For two weeks thereafter, the bid went Granada's way. The share price, mysteriously, continued to rise, and eight of the top 10 analysts recommended that shareholders accept the hid. Rohinson approved a dawn raid, allowing Granada to pickup 9.9 per cent in the market.

The coup de grace was delivered by Carol Galley of MAM, which held 14 per cent of Forte, Famously and controversially duhbed the "Ice Malden" by the Forte-supporting Evening Standard ("Iron Maiden" was rejected on the grounds of poor taste), she went personally to Sir Rocco's office on Tuesday to announce she was backing Robinson, just as she had in the LWT hid two years before.

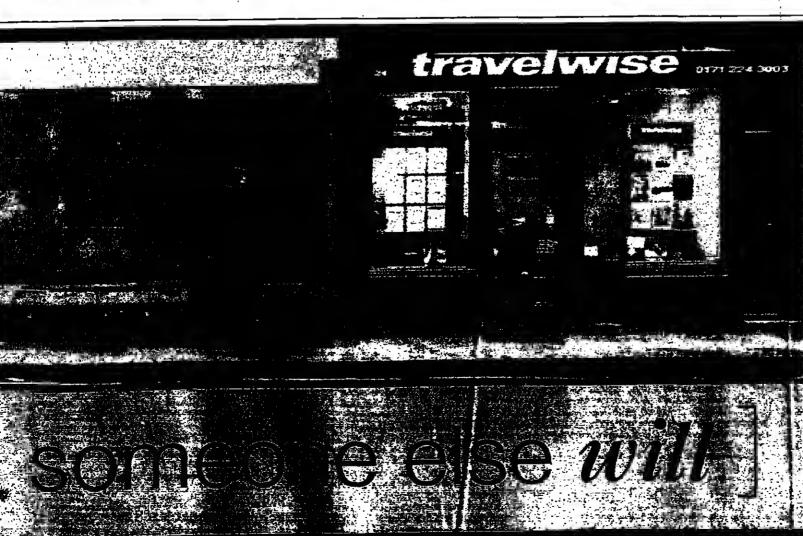
All told, three-quarters of Forte's shareholders backed Robinson. There was, says a close colleague, "a great deal of sadness for Rocco, but he was hrilliant on the day."

For Robinson, the result was anti-climatic. "I didn't feel elation, really," he says. "It only now is beginning to sink in."

There will be plenty of news out of Granada and Forte in the months to come. The upmarket hotels will be sold – perhaps even back to Sir Rocco, who is attempting to raise financing. "I'll be back," he promised on the day he lost the empire.

Granada's ownership of Forte is bound to alter radically the leisure landscape of Britain. Roadside restaurants will get a new look. Many of them will be transformed into fast-food outlets, boasting Burger King or Pizza Hut. Thanks to centralised purchasing and cost controls, hotels will look the same in the North as in the South – the same services, the same food. Granada's defining strategy is a simple one: uniformity drives profit.





As the saying goes, "You can't please all of the people, all of the time". But given that it costs five times as much to gain a new customer as it does to keep an existing one, it pays to hang onto them. A Freefone Customer Careline can help. It's an easy way for people to get in touch with you. Whether it's to ask for advice, make suggestions on improving your service or even let off steam. A Careline also shows you value customer's opinions, that your company is prepared to listen. In fact, a recent survey found that 82% of customers are likely to re-order with you again if their complaint is successfully dealt with. For more information on your own Customer Careline, talk to us on 0800 800.

[Work *smarter*, not just *harder*]

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# Bernie's message for Britain: reach for the stars

This week will probably be remembered as Harriet Harman's nightmare, the week when the middle classes tormented themselves about the Right Thing To Do when choosing a school - the Week when the country was split over whether Ms Harman should be martyred or canonised.

But she did not express the most potent feelmgs of the week. We expect privileged people such as Harriet Harman to worry about balancing aspiration and personal amhition against their obligations to the rest of society. They have been torturing themselves for geocrations. Noblesse oblige, duty, guilt, shame - there is a whole vocabulary available to rehearse their dilemmas.

The really startling revelation came not from Ms Harman, hut from Bernie Grant, her fellow Labour MP. As Ms Harman gave a grovelling apology, Mr Grant committed a far greater heresy: he said that he wished he had seot his children to a private school rather than to the local comprehensive in Tottecham, north London. State education had "very, very seriously hampered" their progress. And he - representative of some of Britain's most deprived voters - had had enough of it. His children - and presumably the children of his constituents - deserved better.

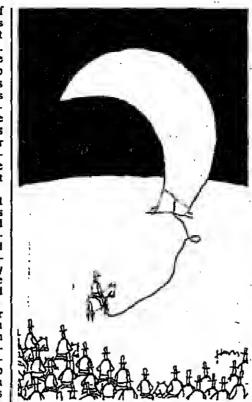
Britain is not used to hearing aspirations from these quarters. A prince may aspire to a pauper's life, but the poor man is meant to stay at the rich man's gate. There is sull a disappointing acceptance among too many less advantaged people that they should, in fact, know their place. And the place for working-class children is in the state system, however inadequate that may be. They too easily accept what they are given: only the middle and upper classes enjoy the privilege of wrestling with the choice of private education. As for health care, everyone is meant to accept that "rationing" is inevitable, even good for the soul.

Mr Grant's intervention has exposed a lie: the notion that dissatisfaction, ambition and desire to achieve is essentially middle class. A man who has so often been pilloried as Barmy Bernie has become the first modern Labour politician to legitimise an appetite for self-improvement, a desire for ordinary people to get the best for themselves and their children. Harriet Harman exposed her own guilt-ridden struggles and that of Labour-sup-porting professionals. Bernie Grant did more: he liberated an authentic anger at underachievement felt by the great mass of voters.

This energy was harnessed by Margaret Thatcher, whose policy of selling council houses ditched Labour's paternalism and acknowledged that the wish to own property was virtually universal. But Thatcherism's appeal to ambition and aspiration palled: it upped over into an associa-tion with greed. It did little to provide ordinary people with better education. Meanwhile, the Nineties recession and housing slump suggested

that Thatcherism had offered empty promises.

Now Mr Grant has opened a road for Labour
to express personal ambition – a word which, in British society, and left-of-centre British society in particular, has been made to seem vulgar and unattractive. But Bernie's message poses many problems. There is Britain's anti-aspirational culture to overcome. We are more interested in failure than success (just think how the Duchess of York's amazing success in raising \$4m has been belittled).



Prejudice still shuts people out of many jobs where connections, accent and colour of skin play an insidious role in determining who gets to do what. For all the Prime Minister's talk of creating a classless society, his image of warm beer and cricket on the village green recalls a static, classridden country.

The process of diminishing potential starts early. Mr Grant is oot the first parent to complain about lack of drive instilled by schools. "The staff believe the kids won't make it," he said. "They don't encourage the kids to fix their aspirations high."

These problems are graphically illustrated in sport, whose chief institutions, be it the MCC or Wimbledon, remain riddled with outdated snobbery that excludes rather than encourages a great deal of potential taleot. Combined with the anticompetitive ethos that has overtaken the school sports system, Britain is in the second division of sporting nations, in just the same way as its econ-

omy has already slipped down the table.

People collude in their own underschievement. Parents who have been let down by their own edu-cation often fail to expect the best of their own children, and so the cycle of underschievement carries on. In Britain, those who distinguish themselves at school can find themselves isolated as swots. And there is still much begrudging within poorer communities of those who excel dismissed as class traitors, in league with the toffs and bosses.

Political leaders - whether Tony Blair, Paddy Ashdown or John Major - should recognise the importance of Bernie Grant's intervention. By breaking Labour ranks, he has demonstrated the leadership that is needed to wake people up to

DAVID

**AARONOVITCH** 

**Food for** 

thought

At some point during the week, you may have come

across a new name: Olestra.

Remember? It's not Anthea

Turner's younger sister, who is

threatening to run her own cable show interviewing lottery

winners and has the same line

in nasty sweaters as her sister. Her name is Wendy, not Olestra, and I hope that this is the last you'll ever hear of her.

The true Olestra is a fat. "A

fat what?" you ask. Not a fat

anything - a fat found in foods.

On Wednesday, Procter and

endless soap powders and foodstuffs, finally got the go-ahead from the US Food and

Drug Administration to pro-

duce grub made with the new

zero-calorie fat. First off the

starting-blocks will be Olean

potato crisps, containing half the calories of your normal crisps and none of the fat.

Cakes, biscuits and chocolate

will all follow - all tasting

delightfully greasy, but leaving no fat behind them.

I'm not going to waste space explaining the molecular hiology of Olestra (which, of course, I fully understand, hav-

ing attended a grammar school

and nearly passed chemistry O-level). Suffice it to say that

Olestra's particular property

is simply to pass straight

through you.

And that, say its critics, is also its drawback. There is a very

slight chance that the comple-

tion of its passage through the body may be - how shall I put it - unheraided. The usual secu-

rity warnings may not sound, the gates may fail to close in

time. Great for the manufac-

time. Creat for the manufac-turers of personal hygiene products (including, perhaps, Procter and Gamble), but appalling for the rest of us. So there is now a suggestion that Olean packets might feature a warning that their contents may

cause intestinal discomfort,

Now, some folks may be keen enough ou combining a low-calorie diet with the eating

habits of a Viennese aristocrat

to run this risk, but not me. In

my experience, the body is

unruly and difficult enough

without adding Olestra to it. All my life, this fleshly temple

or a laxative effect".

chase their ambitions and accept them as honourable and legitimate.

The middle classes are ahead of the game. They realise that they can no longer simply pass mid-die-classness on to their children by giving them the right manners and good connections. John Major's image of inheritance cascading down the generations will not be enough to guarantee their security, as Britain becomes more meritocratic, more competitive. If middle-class families are to hang on to their status, they must give their children skills and education. Nothing, not even Harrict Harman's political ambitions, can be allowed

to stand in the way of that imperative.

Bernie Grant understands the urgency. The child of two teachers, an immigrant whose education was his chief asset, he is tuned in to the dangers of today's competitive economy. Most of his constituents are ill-equipped to deal with the future. They risk being left behind.

They need a society that will build and harness their ambitions, not diminish them and so preserve an anachronistic order. That might mean big changes, such as introducing vouchers into the schools system, weighted in favour of the less welloff, empowering parents to do the best for their children. It might involve an expansion of more individually funded health care—the use of alternative therapies is demonstrating the level of personal initiative in health care.

. Mr Grant has pointed the way towards fresh thinking from Labour. Many voters - even Labour supporters - are no longer happy with what they are given. They want to seek out their own horizons. Labour should back them.

has been letting me down. It has ruined romantic moments,

spoiled dramatic gestures

and failed to respond at times

Consider. Adolescence is

not a great time of life for any

male. At 16, my confidence

was shaky, veering from arro-gance to a feeling of worth-lessness. I wanted two things above all: to be seen as the

romantic philosopher-prince

that I really was, and (related

to this) to get my leg over. Cue

the boil. Not a pimple, or a

enormous, swollen, angry boil. And not hidden on the leg, or the shoulder, or even the hum,

hut slap in the middle of my

nohle, contemplative fore-

head. "There you are," it

seemed to say, "write a poem

Travellers to exciting, exotic lands will testify to the way that

the body's minor caprices can

dominate the mind's eodeav-

ours. Usually, the problem is food-poisoning. On almost any morning at the foot of the

Sphinx, in the gardens of the

Taj Mahal, or by the fountains of the Alhambra, there will be

one man or woman whose

entire being is focused on a square inch of sphincter, and

whose only thought (despite all

the solendour and history sur-

rounding them) is whether

they are going to make it. Next

time you are at one of these

places, watch carefully. Or

indeed (as Wendy's sister might

say), it could be you.

The problem is that most of

us have a completely unrealis-

tic mental image of our physi-

cal selves. It is constructed in

early adulthood, at an opti-mum time. We "know" we are

fat, or baid, or pant when we run upstairs. But somehow

those awful holiday snaps lie,

those jibes from family and colleagues exaggerate. We carry around with us our true selves:

younger, thinner, more grace-ful and fitter. And then some-

thing goes wrong - a bad bout of flatulence, a sty, a millisec-

ond's clumsiness - and the

image dissolves, leaving us face

Which, I contend, does not

need some new product like

Olestra to make it any worse.

to face with mortality.

about that."

# ■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ■

### Who fears elections in Northern Ireland?

From Mr Paul Evers Sir. David McKittrick's analysis of the Northern Ireland situation ("The stalling of peace", 25 January) rings true; as soon as George Mitchell showed signs of removing one spanner from the works, John Major promptly threw another one in. The question is why?

The most charitable explanation is that he does not have aruuse. Many thousands of fered discrimination and worse for many decades under the yoke of the elected Stormont government, with its huilt-in Unionist majority. A new elected body, even if it is simply a hody of negutiators, will almost certainly suffer from the same imhalance, and any attempt to make it more truly support of the Unionists. John Hume's and the SDLP's Hence the predictable republican hostility to the idea.

I suggest that John Majur's real reason for this proposal is to ercate delay. Setting up a new elected hody would prohis probably a well-tried Foreign
Office axiom that the best way
(and Sinn Fein at 7 per ceot).

to handle a tricky negotiating situation is to protract the discussions until the heat has gone out of the affair, and sheer weariness leads the opposing parties to make concessions.

This would, however, be a very risky strategy in the current volatile situation. The last thing John Major should want is the prospect of fighting a general election against a background the sensitivity to realise what of renewed violence in Northfears his pruposal would ern Ireland, Many might perceive the cause of that viopeople in Northern Ireland suf- lence as the present government's stubborn immo-hility in the face of such hroadly-based pressure to move the peace process forward. Yours faithfully, PAUL EVERS Chester

From Mr Martin Moore hysterical reaction to the Goverament's propusals for an elected body in Northern Ireland lies in the findings of a recent opinioo poll, published in the Belfast Telegraph on 17 ably take many months. There January 1996, which gave SDLP

an era when youth promiscuity

is widely condemned, one

would expect society to wel-

"virginity test" and by charging-

the man she loves with rape,

despite the evidently consensual

Astonishingly, even though

Sarah has talked of suicide if

she is kept apart from Musa,

officials seem prepared to risk

the possibility of such a tragedy.

Yes, there is real harm being

done to this young girl, hut it's

not being done by her

nature of their relationship.

It is also telling to note that in the same poll 70 per cent supported the establishment of an elected body (14 per cent were opposed and 16 per cent answered "don't know"). Of SDLP supporters, 68 per cent supported the proposal (as did 50 per cent of Sinn Fem sup-

porters).
These figures show how far out of touch nationalist politicians are with the electorate they claim to represent. Yours faithfully, MARTIN MOORE

26 January

From Mr Peter Marshall
Sir: I guess the electorate of
Northern Ireland numbers about one million. Well over 200,000 people live in the mainland UK who were born in Northern Ireland. Should we

planned by John Major? The position of Northern Irish people living in Eire may he similar. The position of those living outside the British Isles is perhaps different, since they have truly emigrated. Yours sincerely, PETER MARSHALL

London, SW4

# Hard- and soft-core currencies in EMU

From Mr Adam Szarf Sir: Considering Gavin Davies' thoughtful analysis of prob-lems likely to face the UK outside the single European currency (22 January), it is rather surprising that no mention has heeo made so far about the experience gained under the Bretton Woods system, which combined stability of exchange rates with some flexibility in their management.

Exchange rates were fixed in terms of US dollars, but were allowed to change whenever necessary to correct a "fundamental disequilibrium" in a country's balance of payments. This concept was never given a definite meaning, which per-haps was wise considering its complexity. Its interpretation was left to the managers of the IMF and the countries concerned, facing unacceptable employment. The system was Sir: Your editorial on the diffinot perfect, but it worked rea- culties facing the prospect of sonably well for a quarter of a economic and monetary union century after the Second World in Europe (25 January) advo-

War. It came to an end only when President Nixon took the dollar off the gold standard in the early 1970s.

Today, external stability could be achieved fixing exchange rates between the "hard" Euro and currencies of the soft core countries on a semi-permanent basis. This would reduce the danger of beggar-my-neighbour devaluations by the latter countries, which is of such concern to German anthorities. Similar to Bretton Woods, exchange rates could still be subject to occasional negotiated adjustments, mutually agreed between the inner and outer cores of EMU in situations approximating "fundamental disequilibrium". Yours sincerely, ADAM SZARF

cates relaxation of the Maastricht criteria as an alternative to postponing the 1999 deadline. In economic terms, there might be a case for such a step; in political terms, it could well

be disastrous.

Ever since the Maastricht treaty came into effect, a number of member states have gone to inordinate lengths to meet the Maastricht criteria. This has in many cases involved severe public expenditure cuts and high interest rates, which is the price usually paid for any strict defla-tionary policy. This in turn has caused increases in unemployment and many bankruptcies of small-to-medium firms.

If these criteria are now relaxed for the sake of adhering to the 1999 deadline, there will be some very angry people among these victims, who will conclude that all the sacrifices were not so necessary after all. Yours sincerely,

WALTER CAIRNS



### Ptolemy's heliocentric universe

From Mr W. K. Harper Sir. Tom Wilkie ("Journey to the beginning of time", 24 January) puts The Almagest of Ptoleury (2AD) as the beginning of the advance of astronomy, but h was in fact a retrograde step that began a 13th-century interlude from Greek science until the recovery of Copernicus and Galileo in the 15th century. This was because the Catholic Church adopted, and made into dogma, The Almagest, its Earth-

"divine" universe, and all scientific progress was blocked in Christian Europe. In 390BC, Heracleides sug-

gested that Venus and Mercury may orbit the Sun; Democritus (c.380BC) described the Milky Way as being composed of stars, the Moon as being similar to the Earth and matter composed of atoms: Aristarchus of Samos (c.270BC) asserted that the Sun is the centre of the solar system and the planets revolve round it. Aristarchus estimated the dis-

mount for good health to main-

tance of the Sun from the Earth by observation of angles; Eras-tothenes of Cyrene (c.240BC) calculated the circumference of the Earth as 28,000 miles, and Hipparchus of Nicea (c.130BC) used a total eclipse of the Sun to determine correctly the distance and size of the Moon. Seleucus, about 190 BC, was the last Greek astronomer to teach a heliocentric theory of the solar-system. Yours faithfully, W.K. HARPER

Stoke-on-Trent

# Animated viewing

columns, point out to the compilers of the British Attitudes Survey (report, 25 January) that "watching television" cannot by any stretch of the imagination, be classed as a "leisure time activity". The classing of cinema, ballet, opera, theatre and music as "activity" is also questionable, to say the least, where it refers to the passive process of watching or listening GEOFFREY BRACE

From Mr Geoffrey Brace Sir: May I, through your

tain outside interests and go out to see family and friends. Has

Topsham, Devon

### QUOTE UNQUOTE

Every morning we've been having hreakfast together not knowing if we will be having support together - Pandora Maxwell, whose husband, Kevin, has been acquitted on multi-million pound fraud charges.

We don't care what people say. Our little princess is in love - Jackie Cook, mother of Sarah, 13, who has married a Turkish waiter. Thanks to the gloomy calculations of middle-age mortality, made for the protection of life insurance companies, we know that three Conservative MPs will die before the end of this summer - Roy Hattersley, Labour's former deputy leader.

We Scots can take a girl out, wine and dine her, satisfy her every sexual whim, marry her, have children, get divorced - and still have change from a fiver - Dominik Diamond, presenter of Channel 4's Gamesmaster.

We're perfect for each other. We both love getting out of our heads - Oasis rocker Liam Gallagher on his romance with actress Patry

Scotland is the only nation in the world to have discovered oil and grown poorer - Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National

### Why destroy young love?

From Mr Peter Tatchell Sir: Your thoughtful, compassionate editorial ("Sad tale of a modern-day Juliet". 25 January) on the hounding of the 13-year-old child bride. Sarah Cook, was a much-occided corrective to the hysterical, heartless reaction of the Turkish and British authorities, Although her marriage may be unlawful, there is no evidence that Sarah was coerced into, or harmed by, the relationship with Musa Komaegae, Indeed, she appears to have been very happy - until the heavy handed intervention of officialdom.

Why the authoriues should want to for be allowed to; break up the love between these two teenagers is beyond my comprehension, isn't there enough emotional unhappiness in the world without adding

**Hustler Fats** 

From Mr George R. Crisp

Sir: In an utherwise fine obit-

tended I'm surc, that Fats was

vised matches with Willie Mosconi, at least the ones f

recall from the 1970s and early

1980s, Fats's on-air challenges

to put down some real dough

were rebuffed by his

smoother, more polished rival.

knew the difference between

playing a meaningless exhibi-

tion for the benefit of a mainly

ignorant audience and playing

for real stakes. Fats would have

had Mosconi - and indeed had

him numerous times, away

from camera shot - for lunch.

Sincerely, George R. Crisp

London, W14

Good reason, too: Mosconi

# Michelangelo

boyfriend.

Yours faithfully,

PETER TATCHELL

Sir: In an utnerwise line obit-uary of Minnesota Fats (24 January). Mike Shamos did give the impression, unin-Sir: Further to your report ("Art world agog over NY's 'new Michelangelo', 24 January) of something of a lightweight the discovery of a lost Michelangelo sculpture in New when it came to playing pool. Nothing could be further from the truth: Fats was the most respected, if not feared. pool player of his generation. the hustler's hustler, the real article. In some of those tele-

York City, the same piece, described as an "Apollo", is illustrated (plate 30) in a paperback hank published in 1969 by

Sadea/Sansoni of Florence. The book, Michelangelo Sculptore, is by Alessaandro Parrenchi. In his note about the sculpture (p 34), he wrote that its present whereabouts were unknown hut that it had been seen offered for sale at Christics in 1902. Yours sincerely.

# last seen in 1902

From Mr. Anthony Stones, FRBS

ANTHONY STONES

# needlessly to it? Moreover, in | Short on consistency

schools.

From Ms Josephine Toynbee Sir: I agree that Harriet Har-man's choice of school for her come Sarah's and Musa's love and fidelity, rather than seek to The authorities claim that son was a purely personal, famthey have Sarah's welfare at ily decision that she had to take in his best interests, within heart. However, it's hard to envisage that her welfare is best the context of this Governserved by forcing her to undergo meot's relentless uoderfuodthe humiliation of a so-called ing of non-grant maintained

> I am just amazed that Clare Shurt could publicly criticise her sister MP, saying she must answer to her constituents for her choice". I am a member of Ms Short's own Ladywood con-stitueocy Labour Party. Here there has been no answerability for nearly a year. Our con-stituency has been suspended and we were forhidden to hold meetings and excluded from the important national debates at the Clause Four and annua

We are still unable to get a clear reply from the Labour Party on the grounds for these suspensions, the progress of its inquiry or what we can do to he reinstated. Meanwhile, Clare Short, as sitting MP is very likely to be imposed as candidate for the next general election, bypassing all local consultations of selection procedures. Yours faithfulty,

JOSEPHINE TOYNBEE Birmingham 22 January

# Name of the @

From Mr Roger Chapma Sir: Ampersand (&) derives from "and per se and" so surely
"@" (Letters, 24 January) should be called "amperseat" Yours faithfully, Roger Chapman Keighley, West Yurkshire 24 January

### centred solar system and Ageing travellers at a time of life when it is para-From Ms V. M. Roberts

Sir: Demography is not often mentioned in discussions of car it been considered that they use. But in the coming decades a rapidly increasing number of 80- and 90-year-olds are going to feel - or be persuaded by others to feel - that they can no V. M. ROBERTS longer comfortably drive. This London, NW5

may provide a growing demand for public transport, affordable and easy in availability. Yours faithfully,

### Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor. The Independent, One Canada Square, Capary Wharf, London E14 5DL Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) and include a daytime telephone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are anable to neknowledge anguldighed letters. LITHTING: Charles Wilson Assistant Lithton: Charles Leadboater Managing Botton: Colin Hughes Section two Editor: Senior Keiner Saturday Engine David Robson EXECUTIVE NEW LEATURE Michael Williams Street EDITIME RECEASE HEALD HEALD BE REVENITED FOR BOARD OF DESCRICTORS: Liam Healy (chairman), Lord Borrie, June Link Cobran, Ben Bradice, Javier Diez de Polanco, Brendan Hopkins, David Montgomery, Andreas Whistam Salah Advertised Disactor: Jeremy Reed

# ne stars

# What follows the triumph of Trimble?

The peace process rests on the Unionist leader's plans, says David McKittrick

Ulster Unionist hearts swelled with pride this week when John Major rose in the Commons to endorse David Trimble's suggestion that an election should become the centrepiece of the Irish peace process.

The sweetness of the moment was increased by Mr Trimble's quietly statesman-like response to the Prime Minister. Most of all, it was heightened by the clear discomfi-ture of SDLP leader John Hume, who angrily accused Mr Major of seeking to huy votes.

Unionists have become glumly accustomed to being pilloried as obstacles to peace and progress. The sight of Mr Hume,

> He has yet to win the trust of those with whom he will deal. A Catholic priest spoke of him having 'ogre status' among nationalists

incensed and isolated in the House, was for them a rare and welcome reversal of roles. Il is much more common to see Mr Trimble in a temper than Mr Hume. In that moment, the veteran nationalist leader appeared to have been bested by Mr Trimhle's new Unionism.

It may be that the triumph was beginner's luck for Mr Trimble, who has led his party only since September. Or it may be that his proposal for an elected body simply suited the Government's objective of maintaining a slow pace in the peace process. Or it may be a new era of a more constructive Unionism, though few non-Unionists are yet convinced. Last September, Mr Trimble was the surprise choice of his party to succeed the sepluagenarian James Molyneaux, most thought the job would go to the man who is now his deputy - John Taylor. Instead, the party opted for Mr Trimble, the youngest and most mil-

itant of the five candidates on offer. What swung the election for him was his reputation as an uncompromising hardliner as epitomised by his performance several months earlier at what is known as as "the siege of Drumcree". This was the incident in which Mr Trimble, an Orangeman, played a leading role in resisting a police ban on an

Orange plan to march through a Catholic district in Portadown, Co Armagh.

The 48-hour stand-off was attended by some disorder, and only yesterday, 15 people appeared in court on charges arising from it. But it has entered Orange folklore as a famous victory for loyalist determination not to back down in a confrontation, and it helped get Mr Trimble his job. The party also liked his relative youth, his articulary and his

accomplished television performances.

He had been MP for Upper Bann, one of Northern Ireland's most bitter sectarian cockpits, for only five years before his elevation, although he bas a political track record stretching back to the early Seventies. Almost all of that time was spent on the far right of Unionism, as a member of a number of politically extreme organisations and, since 1978, of the main Ulster Unionist party.

Throughout those years, he was a law lecturer at Queen's University, Belfast, A series of Catholic employees have won religious dis-

of Catholic employees have won religious discrimination cases against the university, but Mr Trimble has made no secret of his belief that the real story is one of discrimination against Protestants. At Queen's, he met his second wife, who was one of his students. Together, they have four children; she works in his constituency office in the mornings, describing berself as "the domestic back-up." They listen to Verdi and Strauss, and he is fond of Wagner.

On his election, Mr Trimble hit the ground running, arranging a comprehensive series of meetings with most parts of the political spectrum - except, of course, Sinn Fein - in Belfast, London, Dublin and Washington. This was a real departure for a Unionist leader, for his predecessor was a model of reserve and reticence, instinctively shying away from such encounters.

The Trimble style, however, bas not been to use such meetings to build bridges, or win friends and influence people. Instead, he goes for directness rather than diplomacy, putting his points in reportedly forceful manner. Assuming the plans for an elected body go ahead, a key question will be whether he would attempt to move away from the traditional Unionist approach of treating such institutions as gladiatorial arenas.

The main pointers against his doing so lie in his hardline record and in the huge amount of mistrust that exists in Northern Ireland politics and Anglo-Irish relations. One feature of Mr Trimble's politics is that he exudes distrust of his political opponents.

He has regularly accused nationalists of act-



ing in bad faith. He has often expressed mistrust in British governments, too. In launching his leadership campaign, for example, he declared: "I would never go into Downing Street alone. You've got to have someone else with you to take notes, observe and listen carefully; one must be careful not to be seduced."

Conversely, he has yet to win the trust of those with whom he will deal. No significant northern nationalist figure has given signs of being persuaded that Mr Trimble is serious about wanting to reach an agreement with their tradition. A Catholic priest spoke of him having "ogre status" among nationalists.

Nor is there any sign that government ministers are opting for an election on the basis of any belief that Trimble looks ready to make a new historic accommodation, for they have often privately complained of his aversion to compromise. It was only a few months ago that a minister spoke of seeing the Unionist leader described as a moderate: "I was having my breakfasl when I read that. Nearly puked up my Frostics."

Mr Trimble is the man of the moment, but what has not yet emerged is his view of the strategic direction Unionism should be taking. It is not clear whether he believes in stalling, in the event that the ceasefires eventually break down, or whether he really envisages, after the election, sitting down for the first time with Sinn Fein. A great deal, perhaps even peace itself, will depend on the course he chooses.

# A matter of reputation and honour

Tory attempts to rubbish the Scott inquiry may backfire, says Andrew Marr

The Conservative establishment is getting its retalia-tion in first. With the so-called "arms-to-Iraq" report due next month, its author Sir Richard Scott has been presented to readers of the Spectator and Daily Express as a naive obsessive, a cranky radical, and a fan-tasist whose findings, should they happen to criticise minis-ters, will be ignored by fair-

minded people.

Rarely has a senior judge been subjected to such contempuous personal attack by public figures as in the articles by Lord Howe and Sir Bernard Ingham. But then, rarely has any judge probed so painfully into the dark recesses of agonisingly difficult policy-making in Whitehall. In the Speciator. Lord Howe derides the judge's "disposition to challenge convention, defy precedent" and his "tenacious enthusiasm for his own views". Sir Bernard says that the judge is not only wet but is "waterlogged".

Both critics contend that Scott has been unjust to ministers by not allowing them vocal legal representation, against precedent. This implies that assorted ministers are retarded marticulate souls, unable to speak for themselves. Was the Attorney General Sir Nicholas Lyell - like Lord Howe, a QC - disadvantaged by his lack of legal representation? Poor dears. More generally, both attacks smoke with outrage at the arrogance of a mere judge prying into decisions of minis-ters and civil servants; that Scott was appointed by the Prime Minister to do it is not, it seems, of much relevance.

It is impossible to take Sir Bernard's assault wholly seriously: Ingham defending due process and complaining that a rather mild-mannered judge has been "astonishingly adversarial" is like the Princess of Wales lecturing the nation on "Least said, soonest mended."

Lord Howe is in a different category. His attack is detailed, dogged and long-standing. He feel if his life depended upon it. He is unlikely to have been put up to anything. But it is possible to be an honest critic of Scott and also a handy weapon in what is becoming a political battle, not one about judicial process. If there is any covert politics in Scott it's there, only more so, in Howe, Ingham and so on.

As soon as the report is published, the counter-attack will move from the pages of conservative newspapers to West-minster. Howe and Ingham are laying down the arguments to be picked up then by selected MPs, who will form a protected phalanx around any vulnerablelooking minister. By the time John Major is called upon to respond, Scott himself and his inquiry generally will have already been subjected to heavy rubbishing. Downing Street has heen ringing around in an attempt to co-ordinate the response. For an example of the kind of operation we should expect, look no further than the co-ordinated response to Major's performance in the summer leadership contest, which killed speculation about whether his vote was a con-vincing one within five minutes of it being announced.

This time the objectives are two-fold. First, to prevent any ministerial resignation that would badly damage the Government just when the Conservatives are beginning to hope that their fortunes are on the turn. Second is the broader attempt to refute any suggestion that this administration is ruthless, high-handed or amoral. It is a fight about reputation, even honour.

If the judge really goes for Sir Nicholas Lyell and others we will see a competition between Conservative politicians and the judge for the public's verdict. The press will split on broadly left-right lines. So, with a few maverick exceptions, will the Commons. My guess is that the ministers will probably sur-vive for much the same reason as Harriet Harman survived this week: the leader's hacking will be absolute, on the "we all hang together or we all hang

separately" principle.

But the wider political verdict will probably go the other way: it is easier for a judge to dishonour politicians than for politicians to dishonour a judge. And Conservatives need couldn't confect anger he didn't to be very careful about the tone of the operation on which they have embarked. If you are trying to persuade voters that you are not a ruthless or arrogant administration, then engaging in a ruthless or intemperate denigration of a judge you appointed doesn't seem a good way to go about

# Jo Brand's weel

Nice to see that Tiggy Legg-Bourke (unfairly berated maiden) has joined forces with Peter Carter-Ruck (toffs' lawyer). A pair of more silly names I have not heard for a very long time. This spat between the members of the upper echelons of society is desperately dull, especially as we don't know far sure, despite tabloid speculation, what Diana said to Tiggy at the staff

I have said some terrible things to people at parties for the simple reason that I was tanked up. Just getting Tiggy's name correct when you've had a couple of Babychams is in itself a bit of a triumph, I would imagine. Now the hangovers have well and truly cleared up, perhaps they should all grow up.

Marrying off your daughter, aged 13, to a Turkish waiter seems to me a very medieval thing to do, not to mention the fact that Enid Blyton must be revolving at the speed of light in a mausoleum somewhere. Everyone is throwing their hands up in despair and asking how the parents could possibly have given their hlessing. Because they are stupid, one would imagine. I often think that because anyone with the correct equipment can have a baby, there are always going to be parents who are hopeless at parenting, at which point we call upon social workers to step into the man relations equivalent of Catch 22. If they don't do



something, they're criticised, and if they do, nobody gives them any credit anyway – all the joh satisfaction of a punch-bag, I'd say. The father of the bride touted his story round the papers, like they do, and sold it to the highest hidder. Unlikely to be the Financial Times, wasn't it? It was rumoured he got paid 20 grand. Is that the going rate for a dowry? Must tell my dad. Meanwhile, in Turkey, our waiter has been accused of rape and the Cook bride has been made a ward of court back here. Surely they must all be in some way related to the Mitchell family in EastEnders. Truth is stranger than fiction - and a lot sadder.

My brother is currently languishing at home in Germany having had his arm broken in two places after an accident during a friendly game of football. It's funny how "friendly" games always seem to produce more injuries. This particular game involved my brother's firm and a team n Croatians from a sports club. My poor brother took the full farce of a shot at goal on his arm as ha tried tn save it. "They all take the game so scriously," he told me. Perhaps we could have guessed that.

Poor old Madonna is getting it in the neck from the Argentinians at the moment because she has taken on the role of Eva Perón in the film

of Evita. The Catholic hishop of Buenos Aires has called her "Satan in drag." (He sounds like a laugh. Perhaps they should get him on Have I Got News For You). Maybe they should offer Margaret Thatcher the part. That would



The most popular television show in Moscow at the moment is a live

actinu crime programme busted by sumeone blonde, pretty and aged 20, so we can reassure nurselves that they are cottoning on fast to Western democratic values. Afprementioned presenter rushes attractively all nver Mnscow

covering the most gruesome marders, sparing the viewers nnthing as a cavalcade of purple binated bodies are served up for their delectation. Just in case people are having their

dinners, light relief is

supplied by a parade of crime

suspects handcuffed to pultcemen. And very difficult it is to tell which is which. This type of programme seems in be clusing in on us from all sides. We do have Crimewatch UK, hot that all tends to be in the hest possible taste and leaves unt the blood and guts. The nnly educational aspect of these sort of to-yer-face crime shows is that they make you realise how much more of an attractive prospect it is dying nn Hallywood cellulaid than it is in real life. Apart from that, they are pointless.

On the whole, I get quite nice letters from viewers when the television series is on. This may well be because my agent tends to chuck out all the horrible ones threatening unmentionable things and herating me. However, the occasional poison missive slips through, particularly if it has gone to the BBC by mistake. One such charming and eloquent sonnet piopped onto my mat the other day and I recognised the writing immediately, as I have received several items from this person in the past. The content isn't imaginative particularly and combines the nouns "slut" and "slag" with a Roget's Thesaurusworth of adjectives for fat. As per usual, the name and address were completely unintelligible, not even allowing me the satisfaction of sending the person in question a

Sometimes it's quite hard to get good reception on Teletext, so consequently I am presented with what looks like a half-finished crossword in which I have to fill in the missing letters by guesswork. Having missed the news the other day, I turned it on to see the headline, Blair -acks Har-iet Harman. Well done, old son, I thought, you've sacked her. A quick twiddle of the aerial revealed it was a "h", not the "s" I surmised. I don't



Harriet: Likely to keep her -ob

It seems Belgium has privatised deportation. A recent investigation showed the Belgian government employs a firm called Budd, (wouldn't a "y" on the end have been great?) to do it. The journalist who did the story said: "The government uses methods advocated some years ago by the extreme right." Without the eclectic mix that different ethnic groups bring to a country, no wonder Belgium is such a tedious place. I always liked that joke that goes: Why did the Belgian chicken cross the road? Because there's nowt else to do in Belgium, of course.



thank-you letter. What a shame. I bet a poison pen pal could be loads

CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

# BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2530 fax 0171-293 2098 Sainsbury's profits warning shocks City

NIGEL COPE

Sainsbury's shocked the City vesterday when it issued its first profits warning since it floated on the stock market in 1973. The company said profits in the current year would be "below earlier expectations due to increased spending on customer service measures, keener pricing in its supermarkets and a poor performance from Texas Homecare, which is struggling in the cut throat DJY market. The announcement forced analysis to downgrade their full-

year profit forecasts from as high as £810m to between £750m and business and there could be £760m. This is significantly lowcr last year's £809m and breaks the company's unbroken run as a public company, during which it has reported higher trading profits each year.

The profits warning wrong-footed City analysts, who had felt the group was turning the cor-ner after a difficult 1995 during which it lost ground to Tesco and Asda. Tony MacNeary of Nat-West Securities said: This shows there is still a lot more to do in the business. New management

more costs to come.

Sainsbury's shares fell 21.5p to 389p oo the news. The slump wiped out gains earlier this month when the City bad responded warmly to a boardroom shake-up which saw David Sainsbury split the roles of chairman and chief executive.

The warning overshadowed a relatively upbeat statement on that the January Savers price promotion had provided a significant boost to sales.

Mr Sainsbury said the group was keen to regain its market shares leadership over Tesco but admitted it might take time. That will remain our objective but I don't think [it will happen] this year," be said.

Supermarket sales in the 16 weeks to 13 January were up by 3 per cent on last year, excluding new store sales. Trading over the Christmas period was bealthy at 4.5 per cent up on the previous year. In the peak precompany's previous record by a significant margin.

8 per cent increase reported by Tesco last month, though this was achieved on a lower margin due to the launch of its loyalty card. SavaCentre performed strong while the Homebase DIY chain increased sales by 4.5 per

David Sainsbury denied that the announcement had contained any shocks and said he was pleased with the supermarkets' performance: "Things are now beading in the right direction. We are investing beav-ily to improve the service and

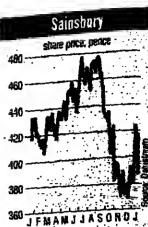
The figures are lower than the value for money provided by our supermarkets and this has resuited in an improving sales trend.

Sainsbury's bas added 2,500 more supermarket staff at a cost of around £10m. These will be employed on checkouts, service counters and as packers.

David Sainsbury said the management restructure was now complete and dismissed suggestions that the group needed an operations director. "We appointed a new retail director, David Clapbam, only four or five months ago. We

bave a good, strong team. However, the Texas Homecare chain, which Sainsbury's bought from Ladbroke a year ago, has continued to struggle. Sales in the 16 weeks to mid January fell by 7.5 per cent, due to store closures.

Kitchen sales were slow. Sainsbury's bad been saving that the chain would break even over the full year but some analysis are now forecasting a loss of up to £10m. It is expected that the stores performance will improve when they are re-branded under the Homebase name.



# Persimmon rights to fund Ideal bid

TOM STEVENSON

The acrimonious battle for control of Trafalgar House subsidiary Ideal Homes will come to a head early next week when Persimmon - which controversially secured an exclusive negotiation period for the deal makes a formal offer of about £150m and launches a rights issue to part-fund the acquisition.

Persimmon's talks with Trafalgar sparked a row two weeks ago with rival housebuilder Beazer Homes, which claims to have been shut out of discussions to buy Ideal.

Beazer said vesterday it was holding its own fire until it saw the size and terms of the offer. but it was still considering its options, including the possibility of appealing directly to Trafalgar House's independent share-

Persimmon's exclusivity period, which is understood to run out at the end of the month. caused a furore because it was seen as a cosy deal stitched up between the Persimmon nonexecutive director Sir Chips Keswick and Trafalgar House, which is 26 per cent owned by the Keswick controlled Hong Kong Land. Trafalgar maintains that Persimmon's offer was superior to any others in a number of unspecified respects and not just financially.

of Persimmon, was locked in for his first acquisition

meetings yesterday and unable to comment on the acquisition which would be the first such deal since Persimmon came to the market 10 years ago. If the deal goes ahead, Persimmon will jump up the league table to fourth place behind Wimpey. Barratt and Beazer.

Beazer, which is twice the size of Persimmon, insists that it is better placed to move quickly to complete the acquisition because its offer would be financed principally from its own cash resources and bank borrowings.

The Persimmon proposals are thought to include a onefor two rights issue to raise just over £100m, for which underwriting will be sought on Mon-

day.

Once that is arranged the terms of the bid might be an-



Duncan Davidson, chairman Duncan Davidson: heading

nounced as early as next Tuesday. Trafalgar needs to tie up the deal as soon as possible to reduce debts of more than £200m.

Last month it stunned the City with annual losses of £321m, nearly twice the level predicted by some analysts. The conglomerate's sbares collapsed last year, although at 32p. they are well above their low of 21p.

The planned disposal of Ideal, one of the group's most profitable divisions, follows the sale at the end of last year of some of Trafalgar's most high profile trophy assets, including the Ritz botel, acquired by the secretive Barclay brothers for

ideal made doubled operating profits last year of £19m. It has 100 development sites which at the end of the year to September iocluded 6,600

plots.

The struggle for control of Ideal confirms a resurgence of interest in the housebuilding sector, where share prices have risen sharply in recent weeks in anticipation of higher levels of activity Ibis year.

Berkeley Homes, one of the sector's most successful companies launched a rights issue earlier this week to buy extra building land while Alfred McAlpine pulled out of general construction work to focus in part on its own househuilding



Dressing down: A protester sporting fancy dress outside Hamleys toy shop in central London yesterday during a demonstration against conditions for factory workers in Asia. Photograph: Alastair Grant/AP | details on agreements without Some are paid 42p per hour for a 60-hour week

# Colorvision credit licences withdrawn

GLENDA COOPER

The Office of Fair Trading has decided to withdraw the consumer credit licences of Colorvision, the television and video stores chain after a series of alleged dishonest practices including supplying second-hand

goods, presenting them as new. But the company will retain the licences until the outcome of an appeal lodged against the decision with the President of the Board of Trade, lan Lang.

The OFT had threatened to revoke the licences in October, following customer complaints, An OFT adjudicating officer found the Liverpool-based company to have committed offences under consumer protection legislation and to have "engaged in business practices appearing to him to be deceitful or oppressive or otherwise unfair or improper".

If Mr Lang upbolds the OFT's findings, Colorvision will not be able to deal in any form of consumer credit or credit brokerage. That would be a major blow for the group which makes about 45 per cent of its sales under credit arrangements. The complaints included giving misleading price indications and hand or ex-display goods, telling customers they could not cancel agreements when it was in their right to do so and altering

consumers' consent after they had been signed. Other wrongdoings were using advertise-ments which were deliberately misleading about the goods available, not offering refunds where consumers had a right to them, failing to carry out services agreed in repair contracts within a reasonable time or at all.

Cont

The director-geoeral of Fair Trading, John Bridgeman said: "Revoking a consumer credit licence is not something we do lightly given the effect it is likely to have on a business. But no company should be in any doubt that its licence can be revoked if it is treating its cus-Iomers unfairly or dishooestly.

The OFT said Colorvision had 10 convictions for trading offences such as false and misleading advertisements, while its subsidiaries had 10 similar convictions.

But Alan Tinger, its managing director said the company would be "vigorously" appealing against the OFT's decision.

In a statement the group said: "The adjudicating officer found that Colorvision had been convicted of 20, mainly advertising, offences in the space of 11 years.. But in his detailed determination, the adjudicating dishonestly supplying second officer accepted that the company had 'improved its business practices' in this area and had gooe to great lengths to ensure that it kept its advertising with-

# Fokker gains brief reprieve

PETER RODGERS **Business Editor** 

Fokker, the stricken Dutch aircraft maker, was yesterday given a five- to six-week reprieve by its government while a search continues for a buyer. Hans Wijers. Durch economic

affairs minister, said the government was making an interim loan of 255m guilders (£100m) and would also bring forward the purchase of four Fokker jets worth 110m guilders. Mr Wijers played down the

chances of a rescue from any quarter. He said: "There is no reason whatsoever for great optimism. The company faces very great problems." Partners still had to be found for Fokker in a very short period in an industry with "large financial risks. continuing overcapacity and ru-inous prices. For the time being it is just words and paper."

The cash holds out hope to Shorts Brothers, the Belfast company where about 800 staff depend on supplying wings for Fokker's planes.

On Tuesday, Fokker sought court protection from creditors for its three aircraft subsidiaries. ending a long struggle to keep the 76-year-old company afloat.

FTSE 100

FTSE 250

**FTSE 350** 

FT Small Cap

FT All Share

New York '

<u>Hong Kong</u>

The move came after Daim-Icr-Benz, Fokker's German majority shareholder, said it could no longer support losses at Fokker, which is minority owned

by the Dutch government. There has been persistent speculation that Canadianbased Bombardier, owner of Shorts, is interested in buying Fokker, but so far neither Bornbardier nor Fokker has confirmed talks are taking place.

Bombardier has a reputation for buying and turning round companies in difficulty. It makes regional jets and executive and commuter aircraft such as the Canadair RJ and Challenger, de Havilland Dasb 8 and LearJet. Fokker has however con-

firmed it is talking to a number of aerospace companies around the world without naming them. Analysts expect that if Bomhardier does buy Fokker it will do so only after the Dutch government has cleaned it up. The

price is thought likely to be purety nominal. Mr Wijers said the amount agreed with the administrators was based on providing enough time to produce a reasonable scenario, while preventing it from dragging on so long that the as-

surances would disappear."

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Source: FT Information

# Stakis wants to buy mid-market Forte hotels JOHN EISENHAMMER Financial Editor

Stakis, the hotel and casino group, has thrown its hat in the ring to buy some of the midrange botels acquired by Granada following its successful bid for the Forte

David Micbels, chief executive, said yesterday be hoped to have talks soon on the subcel with Gerry Robinson, Granada's chief executive. The two men are close and were in contact during the bid hattle for Forte, but no formal talks concerning the hotets purchase have been held.

"We're not interested in the Trophy hotels or the Meridien chain, but we would be keen on buying some of the three- and four-star hotels," a Stakis spokesman said, "Whatever Robinson might put up in London, any or all of them would be within our grasp."

The defeated Sir Rocco Forte has announced his intention to get City backing to repurchase the upmarket

"I think Rocco is after the more luxury and international hotels, and we are after the more mid-market hotels, if any are for sale," Mr Michels

A leading analyst said: cy rose to 72 per cent and the Stakis is probably one of the best run husinesses in the UK sector. They have the highest rate of return. A deal could make a lot of sense.

Stakis has been steadily expanding its hotel business for the past two years, which helped the group to a 28 per cent profits increase to £26m in 1995, despite a decline at its casinos.

The group currently bas 43 hotels with a total of just over 5,000 rooms. It issued an upbeat trading

statement yesterday, saving that in the 13 weeks to the end of December, room occupancasino business showed modest gains. Stakis shares, which have performed strongly over the past year, closed down 2

Mr Robinson and Granada's chief operating officer. Charles Allen, speot much of vesterday at Forte's HQ seeking to reasswe staff.

At their first meeting with staff below department head level, they said that salaries would be paid and there would be no fasi organisational

changes The broking houses BZW

and ABN Amro Hoare Govett. both advisers to Granada

placed 26 million Granada shares vesterday at 693p. Forte will be replaced in the FT-SE 100 index after the close of business on 30 January, the FT-SE Actuaries UK Indices Committee said. It will be replaced by the largest company on the reserve list at The five companies on the

replacement list are Anglian Water, Greeoalls Groop, MEPC, Next and Mercury Asset Management, the fund manager whose decision to sell its 14 per cent stake in

swung the takeover battle.

that time.

oo the bid, are believed to have



Forte is credited with having Gerry Robinson: Expecting to hear from Stakis soon

# Lights go out on Liffe's late session

JOHN EISENHAMMER

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Liffe, London's go-go derivatives exchange, has torn a large leaf out of the Stock Exchange's collective works of cock-ups, admitting the hasty shut-down of its new electronic options trading system just 15

minutes after its launch There were shades of Taurus minor yesterday, as pained butting malicious market rumours of coke in the restrooms, sought to explain why the plug had hastily to be pulled Thursday on their "very leading cdge system".

Traders across the City had been looking forward to the chance to turn a few quid in this first extension into electronic after-hours options trading. Suddenly they found themselves tapping in the dark. Liffe officials, more used to re- after having grappled confus-

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ingly with reference prices that had taken on minds of their own.

"The system was overloaded and not performing acceptably," said a Life spokeswoman, who sounded in danger of crashing herself. "We need to do some more development. Options trading can be very

The APT Plus system was developed in-house at a cost of £2m to coable trading in Bund products.

options to carry on electronically after the close at 16.30 of the normal day's trading, which is conducted by open outery on the exchange floor by about 2,500 traders.

Liffe has a daily turnover volume in excess of £125bn, and is the biggest futures and options exchange outside Chicago. It is currently linking up with the hig US exchange to extend the distribution of its derivative

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f/DM

# Abbot wins battle for oil operator OIS

MARY FAGAN Industrial Correspondent

Aberdeen-based Abbot Group has won the battle for control of OIS International, the oil services company that was floated at the end of 1992. Abbot saw off a counter-attack launched on Thursday morning by OGC International, also based in Aberdeeo, which had won the greement of the OIS board. Abbot, best known for its

KCA drilling subsidiary, originally offered around £8m for OIS just before Christmas after exploratory talks broke down. OIS, whose profits slumped to £144.000 in the year to December 1994 from £2.2m the previous year, dismissed the

offer as opportunistic. The approach of a white knight in the form of OGC was welcomed as an opportunity to increase the range of services of-

fered by by the two companies, which have links dating back to 1977. Bot the rival 28p-pershare bid from OGC was quickly trumped by a renewed 32p cash offer from Abbot. The renewed bid, which includes an alternative of five Abbot shares for every eight in OIS, values the company at more than £9.9m. Abbot last night owned or had acceptances for more than 52 per cent of its target Shares in OIS, which came to

the market at 50p, rose by 4,5p to 320. The company has been struggling to recover from severe problems in 1994, when some key contracts were lost or deferred and margins took a battering in the face of fierce competition.

OIS specialises in technical inspection services for the offshore industry and was established in 1972 with bases in Aberdeen and Great Yarmouth.

### 'Independent' Money on Saturday in the Weekend' section today

- National pensions: Compulsory contributions? · Fear of finance: Savings rates crumble:
- Nursing home insurance: Partnership plan emerges 24. Investment management: Europe states its case.

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There is a time for making the assets sweat, but also in business, a time

when managements must look to the

future and invest in it: that at least is what an increasingly

management has been telling the City'

worried P & O

After Forte, P&O? The parattets are obshares, like those of Forte before the Granada bid, trade at a substantial discount to underlying assets. Nor are profits at P&O anywhere near their potential; making the assets sweat is apparently what the Carol Galleys of this world expect of company

directors these days.

At P&O it is simply not happening. And atthough P&O is plainty not quite the business dynasty that Forte was, it comes close. Lord Sterling of Plaistow has been at the helm for donkeys years; some accuse him of

falling asteep at the wheet.
So is P&O heading the same way as Fone, into the arms of an asset-stripping predator? Post Forte, the idea of the breakup bid is suddenly respectable once more, in the City at teast. With its dozen or so unrelated divisions, P&O might seem a classic for the treatment; it is easily possihle to get to a break-up value of £7 a share so even after the recent ride - up another 13p yesterday to 542p - there is still plenty

However, there are a number of reasons why the present wave of speculation is probably wide of the mark. For a start P&O is an awfully targe bite for anyone: the likely takeout would be anything up to £4bn. Ou top of that, the bidder inherits a mountain of debt. Furthermore, the break-up effort required would make P&O distinctly unap-pealing to any industrial bidder, in the Forte

sense that it could be achieved in just two or three sales. With P&O, there would be division after division to sell, all for the sake of the one or two businesses that the bidder really wants.

This wouldn't rule out a break-up specialist such as KKR, of course, but whether the Americans would have the stomach for an assault of such size on British soil must be open to question. The stock market has always found it hard to value cooglomerates, even those like P&O that claim to have some kind of common thread to unite their disparate businesses. P&O is also in some highly unfashiouable, downtrodden industries

Even the must inspired of managements would find it hard to sparkle in cross-Channel ferries, construction and house-building. As it is, P&O is probably as effective as most. lts under-performance is also in part a reflection of the fact that it invests heavily for the future - an old fashioned concept this.

There is a time for making the assets sweat, but also in business, a time when managements must look to the future and invest in it; that at least is what an increasingly wor-ried P&O management has been telling the City. In the past three or four months it has visited more institutional shareholders than in the previous three or four years. The message is that the dividend is safe and that the business will soon be reaping the rewards of

Granada is large but containable, in the in the meantime, hid speculation makes is that it is not the only suitor. Indeed, investors realise quite how undervalued the company is, nobody is going to quarrel too much with that.

P&O is undervalued but not a tempting target

### PFI is just another form of never-never

the cross-party Treasury committee con-Leluded its bearings on the Private Finance Initiative this week. It must now begin the more difficult part - deciding what to make of it all. If MPs have any sense, they witl expose the PFI for what it really is - a questionable exercise in off-budget

The scale of PFI expansion the Government is seeking is staggering. According to the Treasury, departments expect to bave agreed £14bn worth of PF1 contracts within the next three years. In its absence, total public sector capital spending would fall dras-tically, by almost a tenth in real terms, in the next financial year.

No one is in any doubt about the political reason for this helter-skelter rush into these uncharted waters. The Government couldn't make its sums add up for the hudget, so something had to give. In time-honoured fashion, that something was public investment. Enter the deus ex machina, the

Privare Finance Initiative. A useful advantage for the Government

doughty John Prescott, deputy leader of the Labour Party, takes credit for inveoting the idea. Industrialists are more guarded in their support, particularly since right now the PFt is not delivering the contracts expected, but if in the end it results in more work than the public sector would bave put up for grabs

on its own, then they are happy too.

Sometimes this kind of consensus is a Good Thing: think of the new-found bipartisan accord on keeping inflation under control, together with sustaining the institutional changes, in particular those to the Bank of England, that have added credibility to this objective. As often as not, bowever, a blanket consensus hides a conspiracy of silence,

in which the various parties have very dif-ferent motives in backing a policy. So it is with the PFt. Labour hacks the scheme because it sees it as a way of escaping the tyranny of the public sector borrowing requirement and so boosting public investment. The Conservatives back the initiative because it allows them to cut public investment - while claiming they bayen't. Industry sees the PFI as a backdoor entry to nice juicy contracts. Everyone loves the PFI then. But who eventually picks up the bill?

Answer: the laxpayer. Except that under the PFI, the bill is pushed into the future. The public sector no longer contracts to buy assets: instead it enters into agreements to

purchase services. Not a penny is paid until those services start to be provided, so under the cash-based public accounts, not a penny

is shown in the projections of public expenditure unto that bappens.

The official rationale for the Private Finance Initiative is that this further exteosion of market disciplines into the public sector stands or falls on value for money. A PFI scheme must satisfy this criterion if it is to go ahead. Top departmental civil servants in their capacity as accounting officers and the National Audit Office can be relied upon to

police the new practice. Despite these protestations, which include claims of substantial savings and better quality services on early deals, serious doubts remain. Whatever the efficiencies the private sector can deliver, it will always face ubstantially higher borrowing costs than the

Government A further worry is that departments are ncking themselves into long-term, inflexible contracts for services which may become redundani. The public sector may find itself tied into onerous contracts for services that

are no longer oeeded. But the biggest concern by far is that the PFI is for the Government just another form of the oever-never. MPs must insist that the the capital costs of PFI contracts are included to next year's public expeoditure figures. Otherwise, claims of spending control compared with previous years will increasingly lose credibility.

# Contractors warn 15,000 jobs face axe

PETER RODGERS Business Editor

Civil engineers predicted yesterday that 10,000 to 15,000 jobs would be lost this year because a slowdown in roadbuilding orders is causing a deepening

slump in the industry.

John Hackett, the directorgeneral of the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors, blamed the government for the downturn hecause of a slowing in the award of roadbuilding and maintenance contracts.

Mr Hackett said that the Highways Agency business plan had been revised downward for the 1995-96 year, and now included only one start on a major road scheme compared with eight announced at the start of the financial year Maintenance had also been trimmed back and some smaller contracts already

out to teoder had been shelved. Mr Hackett said: "In the present state of the market it is a severe blow to these companies to have incurred thousands of pounds in tendering costs, then be told that contracts will not be awarded."

He added: "The transport minister's announcement, and these actions by the Highways Agency, are accelerating the decline in road construction and maintenance that is dragging down the whole of civil engineering."
The contractors also blamed

slippages in awarding design, build, finance and operate (DBFO) contracts - part of the government's private finance initiative - as a contributory factor. But a spokesman said the slippage was only three months and was not as important to the industry's problems as the straightforward cut in the number of government contracts awarded

The spokesman blamed these cuts on a hiatus resulting from the national transport debate inaugurated by Dr Brian Mawhinney when he was transport secretary. "The road versus rad debate should have happened years ago. Our members were left waiting." The debate played into the hands of the Treasury. opening the way for a fall in spending on roads, he said. The contractors, who em-

ploy 13tl,000 people, are to meet Dr Mawbinney's successor. Sir George Young, on Monday to discuss ways of speeding up the award of contracts, including the preparation of a standard set of contracts for DBFO projects.

The prediction of a deepening slump came from the latest quarterly survey of federation members. Only one in five firms was resisting the downward trend. Mr Hackett said the most striking feature of the results

was the continuing low level of invitations to tender for future work, which pointed to a greater fall in workload later in 1996. The percentage of firms reporting a fall in invitations is the highest for 15 years, while the percentage reporting more invitations is the lowest for the same period.

Mr Hackett added "This. and a succession of recent goveroment appouncements and actions by public sector clients, have created a situation of considerable uncertainty and concern over the outlook for civil engineering later this year."



Heading for a slump: Civil engineers say that Invitations to tender are at their lowest for 15 years. Only one big road scheme will start this year

There is, however, a slight pick-up in the number of firms reporting better current order books, because of higher orders from the water industry. But for every firm doing better there are two doing worse. Mr Hackett said more orders for water and

sewerage works did not make that would not make up for the up for the decline in orders for transport infrastructure that provided the greatest part of the civil engineering workload. The industry knew there would be more work later in the year on the first DBFO contracts, but for all the larger firms.

Photograph: Brian Harris

cuts in public spending. The survey showed improvements in the circumstances of smaller contractors - with fewer than 100 workers on sites - but no change or a worsening

### IN BRIEF

### Bass family lifts Sotheby's stake

Sotheby's Holdings, the parent company of the auction house group, has confirmed that a group including members of the Bass family in America, now owns 7.7 per cent of the sbares.

### Electronic nose sniffs out smaller loss

AromaScan, maker of the "electronic nose", is in detailed talks with prospective partners to exploit the company's core technology. No further details were disclosed, but the company said it was confident about full-year progress after announcing losses cut from £819,000 to £683,000 in the six months to October.

### Rebel bales out of Locker

John Carr, rebel shareholder in Thomas Locker (Holdings), baled out yesterday, selling his remaining 11.6 per cent holding. Mr Carr has been a thorn in the side of the family-dominated engineering company since he acquired a 22.6 per cent stake last May and atlempted to prevent the reverse takeover of Pentre, an industrial drums maker. But his objections were rejected by other share-holders wheo they approved the Pentre deal earlier this month.

### **Greig Middleton offshore business sold**

King & Shaxson, is selling the Channel Islands husiness of its Greig Middleton stockbrokers to Collins Stewart for an initial £1.8m.

At the end of April, the net assets were valued at £1.7m. Pre-tax profits for the 12 months to April were £416,000.

### Standard Chartered plans sale of HK unit

Standard Chartered, the UK-based bank with extensive Asia operations, is in discussion with Nava, the finance arm of the Thai Military Bank, over the sale of its Hong Kong-based unit Standard Chartered Securities.

# THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

# Cancer scare shakes Medeva

investment in Medeva, the drugs group, 223p, is not what we bad in mind.

The sudden change in sentiment was prompted by last week's warning from the US Food and Drug Administration that ing drug, Methylpbenidate, could potentially cause cancer. This bolt from the blue came after tests on the 40-year-old drug, which treats so-called attention deficit disorder. The tests showed a higher than expected incidence of a rare liver cancer after 16 per cent to 6 per cent this year. aboratory rats and mice were treated at 30 times the oormal dose over two years. Five male mice out of a sample of 70 developed tumours. The FDA described these findings as only a "weak signal" of the drug's potential for cancer, but has called for doctors to be notified and warnings to be printed on the packaging.

Bill Bogie, Medeva's chief executive, points out that research has shown that the sort of liver disease in questioo is normally apparent by the age of four in humans, while Methylpbenidate is only prescribed from six and above. He also stresses the FDA's continued belief that Methylphenidate is a safe and effective drug.

But the share price reaction shows just bow vulnerable Medeva remains to bad news. The latest tidings come just as Medeva was rehabilitating itself in the City after a 1993 profits warning halved its marphenidate and the prospects for a range several months while the effect of the lat-

group's sales growth and a substantial pro-

from an estimated £79m last year to just £86m in 1996, compared with consensus estimates of around £95m, raising the prospec-tive multiple from 11 to 13. That is still not high for a fast-expanding drugs company,

race to be the first on the US market to use albuterol - generic Ventolin - after Ivax won approval from the authorities last mooth. Competition is set to intensify, with the imminent introduction by Glazo Wellcome and Schering-Plough of generic versions of their own patented products. Elsewhere, several other oew Medeva products are caught

gree of uncertainty at a time wheo Medeva is also about to change its chairman and

### **British Borneo** rights on track

When a company, with shares trading at 378p, stages a two-for-five rights issue at 310p, the arithmetic points to a notional ex-rights price of 359p. It is quite some indication of the enthusiasm in the City for the oil explorer British Borneo that in just those circumstances yesterday, its

shares actually jumped to 410p. Since 1989 British Borneo has transformed itself from what was essentially an investment trust, a portfolio of oil company shares, into a well-regarded and focused oil exploration and production company. The hudding of that husiness, however, has not been at the expense of shareholder value - growing cash flow and earnings have easily funded a good dividend and the share price has quadrupled since the beginning of 1992.

Analysts left yesterday's meeting with the company impressed by its strategy of diversifying out of existing strongholds in the North Sea and shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico and into the Gulf's deeper waters. It is an oil region of immense

The hig players, however, are really only interested in developing fields where they can retrieve more than about 75 million barrels of oil. That leaves plenty of work for smaller companies, especially if they can create cost advantages.

British Borneo believes it has a significant competitive advantage in the area. partly thanks to a recently announced alliance with an American company that has developed a low cost production platform called SeaStar. Thanks to an agreement with Sbell to appraise and develop a field called Morpeth, Borneo has become one of the first independent exploration com-panies to establish a significant presence.

The rights issue, to raise £54m, was accompanied by full-year results for the 12 months to December, showing a useful rise in pre-tax profits from £11.4m to £13.6m. Despite higher petroleum revenue tax last year, post-tax earnings increased to 23.10 (21.1p), allowing an unchanged dividend

of 7.5p. Financially strong and with good asset backing, the shares look nicely underpinned but it would be surprising if, following their recent run, they didn't pause

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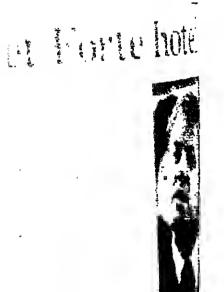
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cheap rate, 49p per minute at try can be made by sending all correct entrants.

tries share the Victoria

Question: Which two coun- your answer, name, address and telephone number to: The Independent/Fly Now Pay Never Day 6, PO Box 7298. London E14 9EG by no later than 30 January 1996. The winner will be picked at ranmidnight tonight. Postal en- dom after entry closes, from





Our suggestion earlier this month that an ket value. Cootinued growth of Methyl-finance director. The shares could drift for could prove exciting has already been borne out by events. Unfortunately the subsequent occ-fifth fall in the share price, even after yesterday's 5.5p uptick to 223p, is not what we bad in mind.

of new products ranging from a generic mestered-dose inhaler for asthma to Hepagene, a vaccine for hepatitis B, spurred the shares' 39 per cent outperformance ugainst the rest of the stock market last year.

British Borne

The problem is that the balance between risk and reward is very finely poised at Medeva. Methylphenidate is crucial in the Medeva's best-selling behaviour-modify- short term, representing as it does all the portion of profits. NatWest Markets calculates that a halving of the drug's expected rate of expansion to 13 per cent in 1996 would cut Medeva's earnings growth from

The deceleration means profits would rise

but there are plenty of other problems.

Medeva's new inhaler has now lost the

up in pateot litigation. Law suits are not uncommon in the pharmaceuticals world, but provide a de-promise that has attracted a lot of interest.

Medeva : at a glance Share price (pence) Sales by major product area (£m) Other products

# More names on the list as dealers wait for next big bid TAKING STOCK market report/shares

### DATA BANK FT-SE 100 3734.7 +0.5 FT-SE 250 4085.6 -1.1 FT-SE 350 1854.6 +0.1 across the City. SEAQ VOLUME 730m shares, 32,329 bargains

Gitts Index

95.62

1250

1150

1100

-0.37

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

share price, perice

takeover hids that are rumoured to being pul together behind closed doors in corporate finance departments right

Dealers anticipate that takeover action this year will be prices may be undermined if some hig bid guns do not swing

into action soon. Only a sure-footed opening on Wall Street stopped the London market from finishing on a sour note io a week that saw records smashed. The FT-SE 100 share index showed a gain of half a point to 3.734.7. Trading volume in equities was good for a Friday, but there were plenty of signs of investors cashing in on profits

The market is starting to grow made in recent weeks. More tired of waiting for all the than 730 million shares changed hands, and 33,000

deals were struck. Several more names were added to the ever lengthening speculative list of takeover targets. The biggest name of the day to attract a bid rumour was frenetic, but there is little else propping the market up at its propping the market up at its propping the FT-SE 100 mempropping the market up at its current high level and share trading in the FT-SE 100 member was busy with the volume

exceeding 6.5 million. Where a bid would come from, is anyone's guess. It just has all the classic break-up characteristics, and that, it appears, is a good enough reason as any for speculators to move in. P&O has an odd mix of businesses, from the ferry opera-20 point fall just 30 minutes before Wall Street's opening bell but by the close it showed a tiny reckon the sum of the parts, which also include road transport and exhibition halls, equat-

ed to 700p per share. The takeover spotlight re-mained firmly fixed on Mercury



MARKET REPORT JOHN SHEPHERD

Asset Management. Shares fin-ished the session 16.5p at which was put up for sale by its majority shareholder Banque 899.5p, valuing the fund management group at almost £1.65bn. Royal Bank of Scotland, up 2p to 591p, and National Westminster, off 3p to 664p, are the firm favourites to mount an acquisitive strike against MAM, the second biggest operator in its field.

There is even some talk of a hid of £10.50 a share being launched next week, which would provide the catalyst this market needs to keep moving forward MAM, however, has speculation before, and there is still the issue of who is going to buy the rival Gartmore, been immersed in takeover speculation before, and there

Indosuez several months ago. The long wait, may soon be over. Gartmore rose 4.5p to 246p yesterday, amid talk that Forte will be replaced in

Berliner Bank was close to finalising a £600m takeover. Elsewhere in financials, Standard Chartered, which has also been talked of as a targel for NatWest, gained 2p to 638p. The advance, though, was 456p, or MAM. in reaction to Standard at last confirming it was in talks to sell

its Asian securities business to Nava Fmance. Savoy Hotel group's shares

da a willing seller of the 68 per cent stake inherited from its £3.9bn takeover of Forte. ITT Sheraton and Marriott two of the world's higgest hotel groups, are understood to have approached Granada about

buying the stake. Granada climbed 10p as institutions clambered for a slice of a placing of 25 million shares at 693p. Total trading in Granada amounted to 52 million.

the FT-SE 100 index on Tuesday by either Anglian Water. down 2p to 565p, Greenalls, also off 2p to 603p, MEPC, 4p lower at 404p. Next, up 2p to

Interested havers of the Forte hotels that Granada does not want are pouring out of the woodwork. Stakis yesterday said it was interested in some of the mid-market hotels. Profit takers moved into Stakis, down 2p to 87p, after an upbeat

most. Spend per head at the tables has risen from £129 to £134, and attendances improved 16,000 to 525,000 in the three months to December.

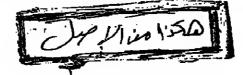
Trading oews from J Sainsbury, however, was not so good. The company's first ever profits warning sent the shares scuttling back by 21.5p to 389p, wiping almost £400m off the

company's market value. Received rumours about a counter bid from Gehe of Germany pushed Lloyds Chemists 6p higher to 426p MAM coning another 250,000 at 418p. Unichem, which has agreed takeover lerms for Lloyds,

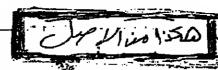
firmed 2p to 255p.
Tottenham Hotspur cele. hraled its successful appeal against the one-year han from European competitions imposed by UEFA with a 4p advance 10 255p.

firmer at 26p, amid talk that a hidder may be looking to buy the company cheaply ahead of the development of its Bolivian oil prospect. Pan Andean has a 20 per cent stake in the site, which has estimated reserves of 800m barrels. Broken Hill owns the remaining 80 per cent. Drilling starts later this year.

Stanford Rook continues to go from strength to strength.
The price of the AIM slock and biotech tiddler climbed 32p to 525p, almost triple the price they traded at only three months ago. Talk of an imminent joint venture deal with Merck, the giant US pharmaceuticals company, to develop its SRL172 drug for tuberculosis sparked yesterday's surge.



# unit trusts/data



Foreign Exchange Rates D-MARK OTHER SPOT RATES Sterling Country 860000 0.3850 342158 261800 155200 3840 4736.00 36565 27,4570 36730 0.9996 10.4858 0.9782 8.3157 3.3975 4.5580 1488.00 2463.940 35.9700 0.2997 129292 0.5788 51.4400 393590 233,258 5.4706 7115,84 5.4972 41,2789 5.5220 **Tourist Rates** 19800 E Buye
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Direct Entraper Control Excess of March 2018

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# sport



# Bullock and Hylton add to 400 metres equation

**Athletics** 

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

Such is the wealth of 400 metres runners in Britain at the moment that it is likely to be one of the most consistently intriguing events of the season.

As the likes of Roger Black, Mark Richardson, Du'Aine Ladejo and David Grindley train on in earnest for their Olympic year, two of the country's most promising one-lap runners will provide a glimpse of the future roday as they face each other in the season's opening indoor international in Birmingham.

Guy Bullock, the 1993 European junior 400m champion. and Mark Hylton, the current

boards in the Bupa International against Russia with everything to run for.

Both have the potential to earn an Olympic place this summer, although Bullock, a 20year-old Liverpudlian, is realistic in his assessment of how things stand. "I would like to think I would be going to the Olympics, but both Mark and I have got to knock a few people off their perches first," he said. But, as Hylton points out, the

400m is notorious for inducing illness and injury, and the odds against all four main contenders making it to the Olympic trials in July in lop shape must be long. If there are any openings, these two runners, and the likes

way to a first grand slam semi-final at the 38th attempt.

Becker ignored sentiment

and a partisan crowd to blast

Woodforde off the court, ap-

propriately wrapping up the

aces in a third-set whitewash.

days." Woodforde said. "when

probably God could have been

out there on the other end and

he would have beaten Him

The 28-year-old German,

who has not won a grand slam tournament since his 1991 vic-

tory at Flinders Park, was asked

afterwards how hungry he was

for a sixth grand slam title.

"Since I haven't been eating for

hungry. I was quite close last

year at Wimbledon and I

"Boris had one of those

training with Colin Jackson in Australia, stand ready to exploit

Not that either is immune to the 400m runner's trials. Bullock, a powerful all-round sportsman who excelled at football and rugby as a schoolboy, had most of last season ruined by a barnstring injury and a chest infection. Hylton achieved both his ambitions for last year in winning his junior title and making the British team at the contracted glandular fever and

missed a month's training. Bullock, who has lost a stone in weight recently since following what he describes as a more pean Cup champion.

holder of that title, take to the of Jamie Baulch, currently "event specific" approach to his boards in the Bupa Interna- training with Colin Jackson in training, indicated his return to form at the Birmingham New Year Games as he broke 47 seconds in a runaway victory.

Although Bullock no longer shares a coach with Grindley-he switched back to Alan Prestcott from Chris Butler recently - he still trains regularly with the British record holder. Hylton gave notice of his own

return to fitness last week in taking the Scottish indoor title in 47.35sec, one hundredth of a sec-Gothenburg World Cham- ond outside the championship pionships, but last November he best. The 19-year-old from Windond outside the championship sor has a similar training set-up to Bullock, working with a more established one-lap runner in Richardson, last year's Euro-

With many of Britain's more established athletes still training abroad, this team includes seven new internationals, including Hylton's 17-year-old Windsor club-mate, Lesley Owusu. who also competes at 400m.

Neil Caddy, whose victory over a strong 2,000m field at the Durham cross-country event on 31 December was full of promise, also has his first international run-out.

Meanwhile Judy Oakes, who first competed for Britain before Hylton was born, will make her 73rd appearance for Great Britain - an all-time record,

The 37-year-old shot putter. whose first international appearance was on 31 January 1976, will surpass the mark crazy enough to want to do that.

held by the current British team manager. Verona Elder.

Oakes, who came out of her second retirement to win a second Commonwealth title in 1994, became the first person to exceed an Olympic standard in 1996 when she recorded 18.11 metres on 6 January.

"It's a special milestone in my life because it shows I've supported my sport for a very long time," said Oakes, who is hoping to reach the final at what will be her third Olympics.

"I think it is going to be hard for anyone to beat the record because there are fewer international matches nowadays. Besides, it's taken me 20 years. I don't think anyone else would be



# Chang and Becker in final battle

Tennis

Michael Chang has only Boris Becker to beat to end his sevenyear wait for a second grand slam title after trouncing the defending champion, Andre Agassi, in straight sets in the Australian Open semi-finals in Melbourne yesterday.

However, Becker, who won the title in 1991, will be no pushover after heating the unseeded Australian veteran Mark Woodforde 6-4, 6-2, 6-0 in only thr 38min to set up a final against the 23-year-old world No 5. Chang, who won 6-1. 6-4, 7-6, mastered the almost gale-force conditions better than his compatriot and was happy to play a waiting game as Agassi unleashed a string of uncharacteristic errors.

Chang not only used his new. longer racket to devastating effect with 13 aces but was all over the court, running down potential winners, varying the pace of the game with clever top-spin and waiting for the

Agassi mistakes. Agassi obliged and conceded that the wind was a nightmare. "It was one of the windlest days Eve ever played in a grand tournament," he said. "The wind was kind of playing havoc out there. In a windy situation. a player with a lot of footwork

like Chang has the advantage." Agassi, who had stumbled down a spiral staircase before his first-round match and injured his knee, said he felt flat. a feeling reflected in an astonishing 60 unforced errors. "1 don t think anything has been 100 per cent the whole tournament said Agassi who played three gruelling five-setters on his

way to the semi-final.
"Sometimes your eyes are

bigger than your stomach," Brad Gilbert. Agassi's coach, said of his belief that his charge could win this tournament again. "His body just didn't have it for him today. I think he was tired after playing 22 sets in this tournament. The adrenalin pulled him through a few matches but today he hit the wall,"

Down two sets. Agassi showed only glimpses of the form that saved him from defeat in the quarter-final against Jim Courier, a win that gave him the points to wrest back the

No 1 spot from Pete Sampras. The Las Vegan battled back from an eight-game losing streak in the second set to salvage some pride, and then broke Chang's booming serve in the third to set up a 4-1 lead.

But Agassi's errors kept mounting and his game cracked beneath the weight of them mid-way through the third set when he hit a forehand long to give Chang the break back and send the match into a tie-break, which Chang took 7-1.

Chang, who is striving for a second grand slam title after winning the French Open as a 17-year-old, said no one could rest on their ranking. "I think it shows the depth of men's tennis now. If you are No 1 in the world it does not mean you are safe any more.

Desoite the crushing nature of his defeat, Agassi still backed Becker for his second title here. "I think Boris has a game that can take Chang's speed out out of the equation to a certain degree and a guy like Boris serves well. When he's holding. he's good enough to beat any-

Becker, the fourth seed, was brutal in his defeat of Woodforde, the last couple of years, I'm quite who had surprised everyone. including himself, in winning his



Sonic boomer: Boris Becker drives past Mark Woodforde yesterday to reach tomorrow's final against Michael Chang

couldn't manage it, but I'm in

the final again and I'm going to take another shot at it," he

But the world No 4, who has

put behind him a run of poor

since winning the title, now comes up against an in-form

player who has not dropped a set

in six matches on the way to a

England's Martin Lee and

James Trotman are through to

the boys' doubles final at the

Australian Open. They defeated the Swedish pair Matthias

Hellstrom and Bjorn Rehnqvist

7-5 6-2 in the semi-finals yes-

terday. Lee, 18, and his 16-year-

old partner. Troiman, won the

boys doubles at Wimbledon

Results, Sporting Digest, page 27

rm at the Australian

third grand slam final.

Size does make a difference

As a 5ft 9in Christian. Michael Chang takes inspiration from the story of David and Goliath. Competing against big-serving opponents of 6ft 4in and above. however, prompted him to try to even things up a little. So he added an inch to the length of

his racket. This was quite in order. The rules allow for a rucket to be up to 32in, and Chang's is 29in. But the American's success provoked the authorities to think again, fearing that the goliaths of the game might retaliate by reaching for the biggest club.

As a consequence, a motion 23-year-old gradually increased mitted to the International Tennis Federation's annual meeting

in June. Most rackets are 27in or 28in long, but, as the current issue of ITF News points out: "A rival some 10 inches taller - like Todd Martin - using a 32in racker, would serve the ball from more than a foot higher than

Chang using his current racker". Chang acquired the weapon early in 1994. He took time to adjust to the difference, but persisted with characteristic determination. Maintaining his

seeking to limit the length of the potency of his serve and rackets to 29 in is due to be sub-started hitting a surprising num-

Technology has helped, but so has Chang's revised approach to the game. "I spend a heck of a lot more time practising my serve. he says. "When I was younger I used to concentrate on hitting groundstrokes, but when you can win a few free points you don't have to work

so hard in every game."

Chang, denied a triumph by Thomas Muster at the French Open last June, has advanced impressively to the Australian Open final. Tomorrow's opponent is place in the world's top 10, the Boris Becker, a mere bft 3m.

# Christie cruises to victory

FRANK (A)

Linford Christie won his first 100 metres race of the year with impressive ease at the Adetaide

Grand Prix yesterday. Running into a strong headwind, the Olympic champion dominated the race from the 40metre mark and crossed the line in a hand-timed 10 seconds dead. The time is worth the equivalent of around 10.25sec timed electronically. Australia's Tim Jackson was second in 10.3.

Christie has yet to reveal if he will run in the Atlanta Olympics. He has spent the past month in Australia training, increasing speculation that the Olympics will be his swansong. "I just want to go out with a hang this year," Christie said, "I'm in better shape than last year and I'm very.

very strong at the moment." Colin Jackson won the 110m hurdles in 13.39 despite running into a headwind of 2.7mps. "I'm really happy to turn in a performance like that so early

in the year," Jackson said. Going into that headwind I thought 13.6 would have been a good performance." Jackson's fellow Welshman, Paul Gray, the Commonwealth bronze medallist, was second in 14.04.

Melinda Gainsford, of Australia, won the women's 100m in 11.56 and the 200m in 23.33. while her compatriot. Cathy Freeman, took the 400m in 50.96. Paul Bitok, of Kenya, won the men's 3,000m in 7min

# TODAY'S NUMBER

450,000

The number of tickets that have been sold on the domestic market for football's European Championship finals in England in June. Only 90,000 remain for the entire 31 match programme involving 16 countries.

# **Questions of Sport**

**739 0 ●** 



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Play again in tomorrow's Independent on Sunday for two chances to win.

MINDEPENDENT

Today we are playing the section of the card dated Saturday 27 January. Below are three sporting questions, each with three possible answers coded as A, B and C. Scratch off your answer to Question One, either A,B or C in the Q1 column then repeat for Q2 and Q3.

THE QUESTIONS Q1 Who is the coach of the Welsh national rugby union team? A: Kevin Bowning

B: Terry Holmes C: Alex Evans Q2 Which former champion Flat-race jockey retired in 1995?

C: Lester Piggot

Q3 Which 1984 Olympic gold medallist has been on the books of Mansfield Town FC this season? A: Steve Redgrave B: Sebastian Coe

C: Daley Thompson

L No purchase necessary. Cards are freely available from newsagents or by sending a large see to: Independent Questions Of Sport Card Request, PO Box 41, Blackburn X, BB2 6AG. One card per request. 2. The prizes for each game will be awarded to the player or players making a successful claim.

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For prizes over £10, phone 01254 683666 (Irish Republic 0044 1254 683666) between 10.30am and 4pm today. Participating newsagents: WH Smith, John Menzies, Forbuoys, Mertins/RS McColl, Dillons, Gibbs, Macs, Supercies, United News Shops, Star News, K Balfour, Eason, GT News,

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7. The Editors' decisions are final in all matters relating to the games. No correspondence can be entered into. 8. Newspaper Publishing pic reserve the right to stop the game at any time and change the conditions.





# The words free and kick performed a little two-step before the K of kick stepped forward and bent the ball round his colleagues

There was a lot to catch the eye at Upton Park on Monday night as West Ham took on Manchester I Inited: the moment Iain Dowie lost a contact lens so far up his eye it was practically in his scalp, the incident when Ryan Giggs ran into Julian Dicks and bounced off him as if from a trampoline; or, a year after Selhurst, the unexpected sight of Eric Cantona acting as peace maker, suggesting to an over-heated Andy Cole that football really isn't worth getting all steamed up about and that like one of Harry Enfield's scouse brothers, he should really calm down, calm down. Despite all that, what nobody could avoid staring at in open-mouthed astonishment were the pair of giant video-screen scoreboards squeczed into two corners of the ground.

In the old days, you may re-member, information was conduct-ed to the crowd at foothall matches via the number board. An archaic wooden structure, this item was sup-posed to give the half-time scores in other matches via a series of letters and numbers. Invariably sited well out of eye-shot (at St James' Park it was placed atop an unsteady scaf-folding structure up which an old boy used to have to climb at half-time with a box of numbers, provoking much impromptu book-making in the stands about whether he was going to make it), as a source of information it was virtually useless. You spent much of the time, eyes narrowed in concentration, squinting to work out if the score at match A was 1-1, 0-0 or 10-10. And that was

cipher what was going on in the rest

of the football world. Electronics did away with all that and, as the new stadiums have bloomed post-Taylor, the screens have started to appear. Highbury has one. White Hart Lane has one, Old Trafford hasn't yet, but when one is installed you imagine miniature take-home versions will be available for £19.99 at the United Megastore. None, though, is operated with quite the élan of the Upton Park screen. Not for it the simple expedient of listing the teams, or perhaps showing action replays of near misses and moments of controversy. Taking its lead from the computerised before you realised that you didn't scoreboards in Australian and South Jim White



African cricket grounds, on which carroon stumps fly every time a wicket is taken, or sad looking ducks waddle pavilion-wards when a player is out for nought, the Upton screen feels the need, like an Internet Alan Green, to pass judgment on everything that happens on the pitch. And a lot more besides.

When a player was booked, for instance, a giant animated ref ap-peared on the screen and flourished his huge yellow card; when there was a free-kick, the words free and kick performed a little two-step and formed a wall, before the K of kick stepped forward and bent the ball round his colleagues; after a West Ham near miss, up on screen came the word "ooooh" as if the entire East End crowd were made up of Ju-lian Clary soundalikes. And when a player went down injured a cartoon sequence ensued, worthy of a contract with Warner Brothers as the latest Loony Tune. Up on the screen came the words "Player injured. Oh no, this looks like a job for ... der der

restorative properties, bounced on to the screen to administer a sooth-ing balm. This happened every time except when Cantona was down, when, with a chirpy cockney spar-rer's sense of mischief, the screen mixed two programs: "Player in-jured. Oh no, this looks like a job for...der der der..." appeared as usual hut, before Snper Sponge could arrive on the scene, up came

crest on the turf. Such cunning subversion made you think what an intriguing idea it would he if a scoreboard was

the sequence which had run sever-

al times of a giant hammer smash-

ing on to a tiny green pitch to leave

an indentation of the West Ham club

der...Super Sponge." At which an allowed to reflect the genuine feelings of the crowd. When a full-back sponge with arms, legs and apparently super-hero levels of granny could kick it further than you" might come up on the screen.
Or when the opposing striker
missed a sitter, it could inform us he was, after all, an Arsenal reject

Never mind Super Sponge, if a member of the opposition went down injured the scoreboard could, in a revivalist nod to the old 1970s chant, be filled with a little cartoon dusthin chugging on to remove the felled player. And if one defeat signalled the start of a bad run, the screen could lead the chants of "sack the manager" or organise a petition to demand the resignation of the board. Ideal for the computer generation - not so much terrace hooligans as video nasties.

SUPER BOWL XXX: Dallas are near-certainties for tomorrow's big game, but their coach is labelled a bonehead. Matt Tench reports

# Switzer enters the last chance saloon

n a freezing December afternoon in Philadelphia, the Dallas Cowboys were ittempting to make progress rom deep within their own teritory. The game was in its closng slages and, having dominated he first half, the Cowboys had een thwarted for much of the econd by an Eagles side giving is best show of the season.

The scores were now level and s the Veteran's Stadium faithul hayed for Cowboy blood, nother Dallas possession apeared to be coming to a prenature conclusion. After three owns the visitors were at their wn 29-yard line and needed anther foot to keep the drive alive. At which point Barry Switzer ade the most famous call of te 1995 season.

With possession swapping afr four downs if 10 yards are not ade, a kick seemed inevitable. vitzer, however, chose to punt a different sense. The son of Mississippi riverboat gambler, staked everything on his ofnse making the extra inches. noring the dangers of ceding e ball within field goal range. Emmitt Smith rushed but is baulked. But just as the tilly faithful began a frenzied lebration, the play was called ck. An official had blown the is before it started to sigthe two-minute warning. Switzer had been saved from

recklessness but then, to uss incredulity, he once again ose to gamble. John Madden. e doven of television comintators, made no attempt to ck is going on?" he hlurted L. The Cowboys ran the same of their coach. ry, were again stopped, and ir downs later the Eagles ked the winning field goal. In the television studio, itzer's predecessor, Jimmy inson, could hardly contain his e. Johnson, whose attitude to successor makes Mrs Thatchview of John Major appear sitively benign, insisted that B nt was the only option. "You that in high school, college i the pros, "he said, a pointed erence to Switzer's lack of L experience before taking r the Super Bowl champions. witzer's Decision (it took less

the league. Afterwards, he justified it on the grounds that a punt would have been into the wind, and the Eagles would have had a reasonable chance of driving for the winning field goal. The Cowboys players and owner, Jerry Jones, rallied round the head coach, but few were convinced. On Dallas radio talkshows, it was acclaimed as the worst coaching decision in franchise history, and one columnist

It was acclaimed as the worst coaching decision in franchise history

even called for Switzer's head. Just about the only support came from Brent Kreider, an assistant professor of economics at Virginia University, who produced an equation which suggested the coach was correct, a contribution that can have done nothing to advance public confidence in the reliability of mathematical proofs.

For Switzer, the Decision symbolised a turbulent season. His Cowboys rebounded from the Philadelphia defeat and go into Sunday's Super Bowl in Phoenix against the Pittsburgh Steelers as unbackable favourites. But as the teams gathered in Phoenix this week, the talk has tended to be of the ie his disbelief. "What in the brilliance of the Cowboy players - and the boneheadedness

> The reasons for this stretch way beyond the Decision, and back to Jones's decision to hire Switzer. In five years, Jones and Johnson had built the Cowboys into the sport's most talented team. When their relationship ended in a messy divorce, Jones is said to have remarked that anybody could guide the two-time Super Bowl champions back to the big game. An unkind view is that Jones then sought to prove the point by appointing a nobody.

Although highly successful in college, Switzer had left Oklahoma five years earlier amid allegations of rules violations.

name status | became the talk of Charismatic but hardly nevered. he was in the highly unusual position of inheriting a team that needed no adjustments to contique its success "Leave well alone," was Johnson's acerbic ad-

vice before Switzer's first game. Switzer, whose style was anyway more relaxed than the driven Johnson's, adopted a low profile in his first year and navigated the Cowboys to the NFC Championship game where they lost to the Super Bowl-winning San Francisco 49ers.

As the Cowboys prepared for this season, Switzer made a conscious decision to take firmer control. "I told you a year ago that it was your team," be said to his players. "What I'm telling you today is now it's my team." Which was a bit rich because

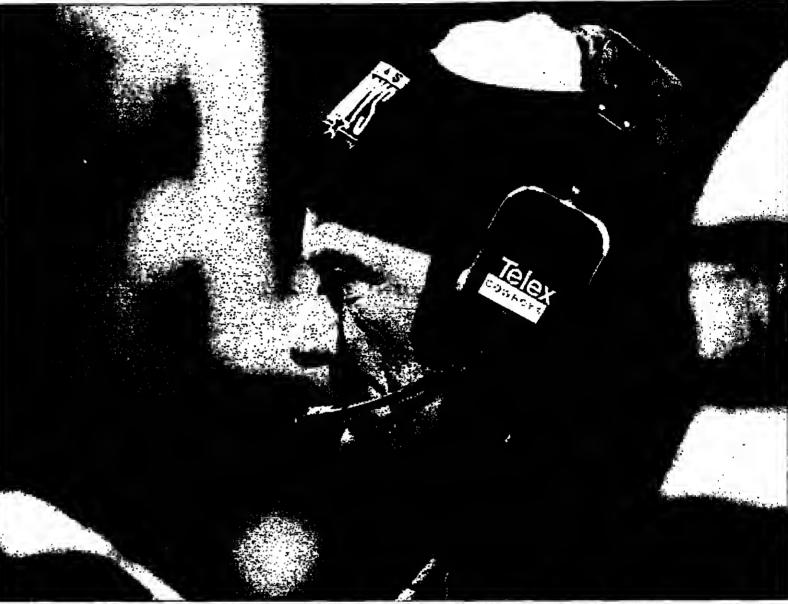
everybody knows that the Cowboys are really Jerry Jones's team, and therein lies Switzer's higgest problem.

have to put up with Jones's allpervading presence, but the complexities of the relationship between owner and bead coach, allied to the continual questioning of Switzer's abilities, have made this a difficult season for the Cowboys. When we win a game, we are supposed to win it. When we lose, it's always a game we were supposed to win," Troy Aikman, their quarterback, said.

One of Switzer's lighter moments came after defeating Green Bay in the NFC Championship game a fortnight ago. After the victory Aikman, who is widely reported to have his own misgivings about Switzer's style, gave his head coach a game ball, and the players made a point of supporting their coach.

All the same, reports that the Cowboys must prevail tomorrow for Switzer to keep his job persist. Jones insists this is not so, hut given the premium he has put on another Super Bowl, and the perceived gulf between the sides, defeat in Phoenix would be regarded as a catastrophe in Cowboy country, and maybe one that required a lynching.
The Cowboys should win,

and win handsomely, but of one thing we can be sure. If they get a fourth and short inside their own 30-yard line, Barry Switzer will punt the ball away.



# Stars to expand the Dallas dynasty

Just about the only way in which the Dallas Cowboys are not the perfect ambassadors for their part of the world is that they represent the Lone Star State. This is plainly ridiculous. The Cowboys have enough brilliance in their midst to constitute a minor constellation.

That apart, the team from Texas are the sporting embodiment of an area where youngsters learn to strut before they can walk and modesty is regarded as a character fault. From the way Jerry Jones swaggers along the sideline as though

he owns the place (he does) to a much a clash of cultures as a Michael Irvin's exaggerated end-zone celebrations, this is a group that has enjoyed its marked dominance in the 1990s, and in many ways the only surprise about Deion Sanders is that it tonk the NFL's flashiest individual so long to find his nat-

ural home. The Pittsburgh Steelers, by contrast, come from the game's blue-collar heartland and in their head coach, Bill Cowher, have one of the few of his calling who would not look out of place working in the industry which gives his team its name. When the two teams meet in Phoenix tomorrow, it will be as

battle for Super Bowl XXX. Unfortunately for those seeking working-class heroes, it is not just symbolically that it will be a contest between haves and haves not

For all their posturing, the Cowboys are by some distance the more talented of the two sides, and in particular possess an offense to compare with any ever assembled. The trio of the quarterback Troy Aikman, the running back Emmitt Smith and the wide receiver Irvin tend to dominate the headlines, but the supporting cast is hardly less impressive, with arguably the League's best full back and

best offensive line. Pittsburgh's strength lies in

their menacing defence and for them to have any chance. their outside linebackers Greg Lloyd and Kevin Greene will have to make Aikman's acquaintance on a regular basis. Lloyd, Lawrence Taylor's natural successor, was frank about his goals this week. "Not that you go out there with the intention to hurt, but to get him out of the game," he said. The Steelers' cornerhack Rod Woodson will play for the first time since suffering a serious knee injury in the opening game

tight end working behind what of the season, but the Cowboys, is indisputably the League's too, are buoyed by the return of an outstanding defensive player. Charles Haley. "How many snaps he will play I don't know. But he will play," Barry Switzer, the Dallas head coach, said of the defensive end missing for

two months with back trouble.

Just about the only thing the underdogs do have going for them is history. In the 1970s, the sides met twice at the Super Bowl, with the Steelers prevailing on each occasion. But that was in the era of the Steel Curtain. Tomorrow belongs to the Golden Cowboys, who will win by at least a couple of touchdowns

w of the adverse weather conditions, e check with the venue before trav to any outdoor future

n 24 hours to acquire proper-

nes not on pools coupons;

reless stated

EAGLE Premier Division: Kingstontamow Borough; St Albans City v Dutamet. First Division: Abrigdon Town
sham United; Berkhamsted Town
sham United; Berkhamsted Town
ye Heybridge Swrifs v Basingstoke
Leyton Permant v Winytafeafe; MaidUtid v Utdridge; Staines Town v Bil/ Town; Thame United v Boghor Regs
Wernbley v Tooring & Mitcham Univokingham Town v Marlow, Second
on: Borstead Athletic v Witham Town;
vd Town v Wivenhoe Town; Bracknell
vd Chaltorn St Peter; Croydon v Ware;
ye v Cheshum; Edgware Town v Hamer
stead; Egham Town v Hungerford
Hampton v Coller Row; Leatherhead
wey Istand; Maropolitan Police
v Third Divisions: Aweley v Ting Town;
v Kingsbury Town; Flackwell Heath v
and Evell; Harried United v East
ack United; Harlow Town v Clepton; ick United; Harlow Town v Clapton; id Town v Wealdstone; Lewes v hurch; Northwood v Windsor & Eton; all v Cambarley Town; Wingate and an all the black hardson.

ey v Horsham.

NO LEAGUE Premier Division:
y v Knowsley; Guiseley v Emley; Leek
/ Spennymoor Utd; Manine v Buzon;
ck v Witton Albon; Winsford Utd v
- Postponed: Hyde Utd v Blyth SperFirst: Division: Affreton Town v
riseld; Curson Ashton v Worldingson;
y Celtic v Atherton Lir; Fleetwood v
hawood Town; Gretna v Bradford PA;
202: Town v Warrington Town; Leight
raster City, Lincoln United v Whitley
ladciffe Borough v Eastwood Town;
op Town v Ashton United.

ER HOMES: LEAGUE Premier

ER HOMES LEAGUE Premies v Cambridge City; Crawley Town v y Rovers; Dorchester v Helesowen send and Northbeet v Glouces astogfown v Cheimsford, Newport Cheimsford, Newport Cheimsford, Newport Cheimsford, V Hastings: Sudburv ronds; Stafford v Hastnes; Sudbury / Wornaster; VS Rugby v Merthyr Tyd-dland Division: Bedworth Unded v ridge; Bridghorth Town v Solind Borbuy Town v Nureation Borpust; Dudwn v Buckingham Town; Evesham I v Corby Town; Hinckley Town v Racing Club Werwick; King's Lynn v Moor Green; Lelcester Utd v Sutton Coldfield; Paget Rangars v Biston Town; Reddach United v Grantham Town; Rothwel Town v Tormworth. Southern Division; Ashford Town v Forest Green Roues; Cunderford Town v Bashiey; Fieet v Towhorige Rown; Havent Town v Braintree Rown; Margate v Farcham Town; Newport IoW v Erith and Beheders; Waterlookfile v Weymouth; Weston-super-Meire v Sittingbourns; Witney Town v Tonbridge; Yate Town v Fisher. WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE FIRST Whistonic Beclenham Town v Connthler; Canterbury City v Themesmead Town; Cray Wenderers v Ramagaze; Dartford v Deel Town; Faversham Town v Hythe United; Folkestone Invicta v Whistable Town; Fur-ness v Tunbridge Wells; Greenwich Borough v Crockenhili; Herne Bay v Sheppey Uni-ted; Slade Green v Chathem.

LIMILET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First UMALET SUSSEX COUNTY LEARLIE HIST Division: Arundel v Langhey Sports; East-bourne Town v Wick Hallsham Town; v Burgess HIR; Hassocks v Whitehawk; Hor-sham YMCA v Portileid; Colonood v Mile Cak: Paginam v Ringmer; Peacehaven and Telscombe v Three Bridges; Southwick v Crowborough; Stamco v Shoreham.

NORTHERN COUNTES EAST LEAGUE Prender Division: Armthorpe Weffare v Goole Town; Denaby United v Belper Town; Glasshoughton Welfare v Hallern; North Ferriby United v Ossett Town; ett Albon v Arnold Town; Sheffeld v Brigg n: Thackley v Hatfield Main. President's

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE Past Division: Blackpool Rovies v Prescot; Boo-le v Darwen; Burscough v Trafford; Citrheroe v Saiford City; Fixton v Nartwich Town; Glossop North End v Chadderton; Holker Old Boys v Rossendale United; Kids-grove Athletic v Eastwood Hanley; Moss-ley v Newcastle Town; Pennth v Skelmersdale United; St Helens Town v

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier DIvision: Clecton Town v Wisbech Town; Green Vannouth Town v Felipistome Town; Haven Yarmouth Town v Fetostowe Town; Haver-hall Rovers v Watton Utd; Lowester Town v Sudbury Wanderes; March Town Utd v Sudbury Town; Newmarket Town v Harwich and Parkeston; Wrothern v Hadelegt Unit-ed, Leegue Cop gearter-finals; Des Town v Tiptree Utd; Fakenham Town v Ely Csy; Foday's pools check A CIP FOURTH ROUND

Covernity v Manchester C Besidos v Port Vale Shreusbisky v Lherpool Huddensteid v Peterborol Notes for the second of the se

POSLEICH LEAGUE FREST DIVISION

SECOND OIVISION
12 Bestford City v Notts County
13 Beimer v Bristol Rovers Heistead Town v Warboys Town; Woodbridge

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND AL-LIANCE: Blakenall v Chaecown; Boldmere St Michaels v Halesowen Harmers, Hindi-ley Athletic v West Midtands Police; Od-bury Linned v Rushall Olympur, Sandwell Borough v Barwell; Shepshed Dynamo v Willenfiell Town; Shifnal Town v Rocester; Stapenhill v Knypersley Victoria: Stratford Town v Bolehall Swifts.

HEREWARD UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE HEREMARD UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier Divisious Boston Town v Raun-da; Bourne v Cogenhoe; Desborough v Marripston; Eynestuny v Hobeach; New-port Pagneli v St. Neols; Northampton Spencer v Storfold; Potton v Long Buck-by; Stamford v Spaking Utat; Weikingbor-cugh Town v Stawars and Lloyds Corby; Woodon Blue Cross v Marriess Blackstone. GREAT MILLS LEASUE Premier Divi Bioleford & Bristol Manor Farm; Chippenham v Barnsteple Tour; Frome Town v Bristol Manor Farm; Chippenham v Barnsteple Tour; Frome Town v Bristopen; Mangorsfield United; Pauton Rown v Briston; Tournon Town; Tournon Town; Tournon Town; Tournon town; Tournon v Calne; Westbury United v Bristor; Westbury United v Bridgott NORTHERN FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE First Divisions Bringham Syn-thonia v Dunston Federation Brewery, Chestra-le-Street v Gussbordush Town: Eppleton CW v Consett; Fedylla Adhleso v Bedengon Remers, Vanton v Whithy Town;

WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE Hull City v Brigot Cov

Buerses v Spolopot

15 Virenara v Souriemouth

20 Eletis v Carus

Futharnay Defination

21 Gillingham v Bernet

Heretold v Pyroduh

Geleri v Scarboro 22 Leyton Orient v Scanborous 23 Northwepton v Hardepool 24 Preston v Bury 25 Rochdole v Torquey

CONTERENCE 31 Gateshead v Wolding... 32 Hedriesfood v Stevens 33 Northwich v Kettering ....

Peterlee v Stockton; RTM Newcastle v Shildon; Seaham Red Star v West Auck-land; Tow Law Town v Crook; Whickham v PRESS AND JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE Brore Rangers v Frasefurgh; Bucket Press v Lessermouth; Cove Rangers v Forms Mechanics; Fort William v Naim

County, Huntly v Wick Academy, Rothes V Bigni City. SAMENOFF IRISH LEAGUE Premier Diwision: Bengry Limited; Criticariale vi-vision: Bengry Limited; Criticariale vi entorar; Crusadera v Gieravon; Portadown v Ards. Frist Division: Bellyclare Comrades v Coleraine; Displiery v Carnot; Lame v Newry; Ornagh Town v Ballymena. LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor City v Barry Town; Briton Ferry v Cernaes Bay; Caer-sws v Conwy (2-30); Connain's Quay No-mads v Ton Pentre; Flunt Down Utd v Ceenerion Town (2-30); Inter Caroff v Afan Lider Llansantifraet v Llanelis; Newtown v Holywell; Porthmadog v Alleystwyth. Post-ponaet: Carnivran v Rhy! BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND Pre-min Division: Deny City Shannock Roves (7.30); Droghede Und v Cork City (7.45); Sigo Rovers v Shebourne (7.30).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First oce Arsenai v Portsmouttu FA YOUTH CUP Fourth round: Liverpool v Sheffield Utd (2.0).

ICIS LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

UNISONO LEAGUE PREMIES DIVISION 46 Eshop Auction v Samer Bridge 47 Chorley v Ascrington Stanley 48 Ochen Bay v Gebsborough TEMENTS SCOTTISH FUR

Rugby League SEK CUT CHALLENGE CUP Fourth tisford v St Helens (3.05).

Rugby Union

TOUR MATCH: Pomypridd v New South CIS INSURANCE COUNTY CHAMponed: Middlesax v Surrey.
PELKINGTON CUP Fifth round: Leeds v
Lundon Insh (2.0); Leicester v Saracens
(3.0); Wakefield v Baitt; Winnington Park
v Wasps. Postponed: Bedford v Bristol;
Nevcastle v Hartequins; Nottingham v
Goucester; West Hardepool v Coventry.
COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP National League Two: Postponed: Moseley v Northampton.

HERNEKEN NATIONAL LEASUE Second Division: Abercynon v Llanharan; Bony-maen v Caerphilly; Pontypool v Maesteg. TIBER V CARPINITY, TRIPPOOL V MARKETER, SCOTTISK TEMPENTS REGIONAL LEAGUE (2.0) East One: Currie v Musseburgh; Haddragon v Boroughmur, Preston Lodge v Edmburgh Wanderers; Watsonans v Biggar, East Two: Edinburgh Academicas v Dundee HSFP; Grangemouth v Henot's FP; Kriticaldy v Corstoptine; Stewer's MeMile FP v Gordonians. South: Gala 62 Faker V Stern Culentur 58 Abston v Montroes 54 Hardinan v St Administra 56 Hardinan v Mitsamock

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v Langholm; Hewick v Peebles; Jed-Forest v Seiśric Melrose v Kelso, West: Glasgow High-Kehrinside v Glasgow Academicals; Glasgow Southern v Ayr; Kinnamock v West of Scotland; Wigtownshire v Stirling County

County,
CLUB MATCHES: Cambonne v Pennyn;
Cambridge University v Richmond (3.0);
Chetterham v Gloucester Old Boys; Pylde
v Broughton Park; Henley v Bath Utit; Hull
lonians v Salet Kendel v Hartlegool Roves;
Livenpool St Helens v Harrogate (2.15);
Lenetli v Durnvant; London Welch v Newbridge (2.15); Morley v Northern (3.0); Penzance v Redruch; Plymouth v Nuneaton;
Rotherham v Orreit; Sandal v Tynedale
(2.15); Sheffield v Manchester; South
Wales Police v Treonchy; Swansaa v Bridgand; Teberd v Waspe XV; Walsali v Rosslyn Perk (2.15). Cancealled: Asissans v
Hevent; Birmingham Solfhul v Britenhead
Park; Cardiff v Newport; London Scottish
v Camberley; North Walsham v Southend;
Wharfedele v Barkers Butts

Hockey WOMEN'S INDOOR EUROPEAN NA-TICKS CUP (10.0-5.30) (at Kelvin Hall inmel Sports Arena, Glasgowi. NASTRO AZZURRO SOUTH PREMIER: Anchorans v Spencer, Ashford v Lawes; Bedærharn v High Wycombe; Bournemouth v Old Walcountiens; Farehem v Woking; Gora Court v Wokingham; Maldenhead v Wimbledon; Old Kingstonians v Newbury; Oxford Hawks v Chichester; Winchester v

DTZ MIDLAND PREMIER: Blowich v North tts; Harbome v Hampton in Arden; Khalsa v Bridghorth; Loughborough Stud v John Player; Nottingham v Belper. ADNAMS EAST PREMIER: Cambridge Cty v Bury St Edmunds; Cambridge Univ. v Besh-ops Stortford; Ipswich v Chelmsford; Pe-tershorough Town v Colchester; Redbridge and Bford v Bedford Town.

SURLIFE WEST OF ENGLAND & SOUTH WALES PREMIER: Exeter Univ v Bristol Univ; Plymouth v Whitchurch; Robinsons v Bath Buccs; Swansea v Cheltenham; Taumon Vale v Weston-super-Mare. NORTH DIVISION ONE: Ben Rhydding v Sheffield Bankers; Formby v Norton; Harrogate v Neston; Southport v Timp Warmeton v Halifex.

WOMEN'S TRYSPORTS THREE COUNTIES First Division: Bracknell v Henley, Fam-ham Common v Wokingham; Marlow v Residing; Milton Keynes v Ranelagh; New-bury v Oxford Univ; Wycombe Rye v West

Basketball 8.0 unless stated BUDWESSER LEAGUE: Derby Storm v Don-caster Parthers; Hernel Royals v Birmung-ham Bullets (7.30); Thames Valley Tigers

ice bockey BRITISH LEAGUE Premier Div BRITISH LEASUE Premier Division: Fife Pyers v Basingstoke Bison (7.15); Mihon keynes Kings v Navoesde Warriors (6.30); Nottingham Penthers v Durham Wasps (6.30); Sheffield Sheelers v Cardiff Devis (7.0), First Divisions Blackburn Hawks v Soi-hull Barons (6.0); Bracknell Bees v Guid-ford Flames (6.0); Chelmsford Chieffains v Manadestre Store (6.30); Onelmsford Chieffains v Manadestre Store (6.30); Onelmsford Chieffains v

Manchester Storm (6.30); Durnines Border

Wikings v Medway Bears (7.30); Sw Wikings v Billingsom Bombers (5.30); Tigers v Paistay Pirates (7.30). ATHLETICS: Great Britain v Russia (at Notional Indoor Arena, Birmingham

**TOMORROW** Football BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND Pre-mier Division: St Patnett's Athletic v Dun-

**Rugby League** SLK CUT CHALLENGE CUP Fourth round Bredford Bulls v Britey (3.0); Cartisle v Welke field (2.0); Dewsbury v London Bronco (3.0); Huddensfield v Sheffield Eagle

(3.0): Huddersfield v Sheffield Eagles (3.30): Hull v Hursler (3.15); Hull Kingston Rovers v Legh (3.15); Keighley Cougers v Barrow (3.15); Oldhem v Warmgton (3.0); Rochdale Horners v Thatto Heath (3.0); Swinton v Leeds (3.0); Wurzehaven v Hairfax (3.30); Wigan v Bramley (3.0); Worlengton Town v Widnes (3.0).

NATIONAL LEAGUE Second Division: Ox-

BUDWESSER LEAGUE: Chester Jets v Leo-pards (5.0); Doncaster Parthers v Newcastle Cornets (5.30); Sheffield Sharks v Worthing Bears (6.15); London Towers v Derby Storm (5.0).

ice hockey

BRITISH LEAGUE Premier Division: Cardiff Davils v Humberside Hawks (6.15); Durham Wasps v Basingside Bison (6.30); Newcastle Warrors v Nothingham Parithers (6.30); Slough Jets v Fife Flyers (6.30); First Division: Bracknell Bees v Medway Bears (5.15); Guildford Flames v Chelmstord Cheffarrs (5.15); Manchester Storm v Soli-hull Barrors (6.0); Blackburn Hawks (6.30); Pesiley Phistiss v Peterborough Prates (6.30); Telford Tigers v Swindon Wildcars (5.30).

Other sports SNOOKER: Regal Welsh Open (at Newport



# Yorkshire's big spenders eye a future full of prizes

today's Pilkington Cup fifth round. It is true they both play with an oval ball and each are members of the Rugby Football Union. Though whatever other similarities there are between them ought to be considered as coincidental, because Leeds and Park are at opposite ends of rughy's increasingly important financial spectrum. Neither club has reached the last to before.

For Winnington Park, once the recreational section of the local ICI plant, their tic against Wasps, of the First Division, at tranquil Northwich, is the stuff

noon to draw from the romance

Park's most illustrious son Dewi Morris, the former England scrum-half, is back to give a hand with coaching. The north-west has seen its share of cup upsets in recent years. Bath falling at Waterloo three seasons ago was one such, though, in 1989, Aspatria's 6-3 defeat of Moseley, of National League One, takes some beating. Morris may well think it time-

to remind his new charges of that dramatic reverse. He had only recently left Park for Liverpool St Helens when the Cumhrians from North One - a ty cash. Because Leeds are perity. The heart of the city has

out of the cup. If Aspatria could of the cup and make a few bob. do it to Moseley, why can't Park do the same to Wasps? Park may be relatively impoverished, but they are big-hearted and exude the qualities which bound the game together before the dis-

covery of money.

Not that any of this will remotely interest Leeds. The Yorkshire club have other priorities than their tie with the Second Division promotion candidates, London Irish. There will be little romance at Clarence Field, and the sponsorship money -£3,000 even if they lose - is no more than pet-

Leeds and Winnington Park of dreams. For the League Five are the two most junior clubs in North club it will be an after-previous season's semi-finalists. very different goals who meet today

> have few worries; they have plenty of the stuff.

When Sir John Hall took control of Newcastle, he said he would pump and prime the club until it was a success. Leeds are already pumped and primed though, like Newcastic, they bave yet to achieve anything more significant than a handful of cup victories. But, for both, it is surely only a matter of time. Leeds has not just ridden out the recession, it reeks of pros-

rich. If modern rugby is about been a huilding site for the past money, then Leeds ostensibly decade, as it has surged to bedecade, as it has surged to become the most important financial centre outside London. In 1991 the city's two senior clubs, Headingley and Roundhay, merged to form Leeds RUFC. Although the new club desperately sought to relocate, it took almost three years of planning negotiations before they could sell Headingley's avoid relegation where, ironiground -where they remain until the end of the season - to a

supermarket group for £2.25m. The interest on the capital provides almost £200,000 annu-

ally, in addition to membership fees and sponsorship and, once Roundhay's ground is sold, for another £1.2m. Leeds will be the best-resourced club in the north. Soon they will move to a pur-pose-built stadium at Lawnswood, on the city outskirts. Before then, there is the op-

portunity to play some of their home games at the Leeds Rugby League Club's ground at Headingley. This supposes that the union club—currently nioth in the Fourth Division - will cally, they would join Winnington Park should they fail. In order to avoid that calamity, Leeds have begun to spend. Last week they announced

the signing of the Llanelli and Wales lock, Phil Davies. Already on the payrolf are his former clubmates Colin Stephens. Mark Appleson and Rick Mc-Cartney from Sale, Orrell's Gerry Ainscough, plus the Wakefield pair Mike Cawthorne and Kern Yates, the England Students flanker.

Recruitment on this scale is way beyond the means of all but in their rugby lives. After tha the most well-heeled. Davies, for instance, will move in June to Leeds where he starts as player-coach, having agreed a three-year contract for £150,000. The remainder are still serving reg-istration periods and none is eligible to face the Exiles. Instead, Leeds will rely on the team

Second Division Waterloo. Ken Higgins, the Leeds forwards coach, watched Irish beat London Scottish in the league a fortnight ago. "We have to contain them up front," Higgins: said. "And, if we are able, we can more than match them ont wide. For most of the team, tomorrow will be the biggest day we've got to knuckle down in the league. Then we can build to: wards next season, a new home and a future. But, for the me ment anyway, none of our neplayers and all of our money ar any guarantees of success." Try telling that to Winnin

# Els breezes through on even keel

ANDY FARRELL reports from Singapore

In terms of temperament, Ernie Els puts himself somewhere in between the horizontally laidhack Fred Couples and the fiery-bellied Colin Montgomerie. When he is playing well, Els has the easy air of someone who can make anything happen. A hirdie-eagle finish at the Johnnie Walker Classic here vesterday gave him his second successive five-under 67 and a one-shot lead over Sweden's

The South African admits to having had a temper as a junior. Occasionally, it can flare up when things are not quite going to plan. He has broken two clubs in his career, one a putter in Japan at the end of last year. "I didn't want to break it, it just broke," he said. In taking a one-shot halfway lead here. Els has not dropped a shot in 36 holes.

Greg Norman, the world No 1, was impressed by the 26year-old ranked two places below him. "The guy has such an even-keel attitude on the course," the Australian, who partnered Els, said. "I was never as level-headed at 26. Everyone has a weakness, but I don't know what his is."

Norman could only watch as Els, who started at the 10th, hit the shot of the day, and then bettered it. The first was a sixiron to two feet at the short eighth, the next a three-iron from 235 yards at the par-five ninth to the same distance. "I thought it was going in." Norman said. "It is good to watch someone playing that well."

The Shark, having recovered from his chest infection, had to birdie his last hole to make the cut at one under par. "I was a little stiff at the start, but I hit my irons well and the finish made up for missing a few chances. Els said. When you are playing well, you don't get uptight. Things work for you. If you are off-line, there is a way through the trees. The game seems a bit easier. I have said. worked at being more patient. You look at Fred Couples, you could not get a more laid-back guy in the world, and then there is Monty...



Taking alm: John Daly, of the United States, fires his second shot at the 17th in Singapore yesterday

roh Lancashire's Paul Eales of five-under-par 67.

under 68 left him among many

Photograph: Stephen Munday/Alisport

three bebind Els, including "We differ by about 70 yards off the tee," said Eales, 32, com-"I enjoyed the winter and I paring his game with that of the am enjoying playing again." the Welshman said. "I don't know why, but I have rediscovleader. Though he needed two more clubs than the South African at ered some rhythm in my swing." the 194-yard eighth, his result was even better, the ball fin-A two-iron to 10 feet at the ishing a foot from the hole. par-five 15th gave him only the Eales, who eats up to seven second eagle of the day at the snack meals a day, drank half hole. Karlsson, the joint overnight leader, made three a bottle of water a hole to combat the heat during his birdies on the inward half to

a date with Els on Saturday.

Dre Yesterday Priotogra

JOHNNE WALKER CLASSIC (Terrah Merait;
Seigapore) Second-reused scores (08 or interest attack): 124 E 25 (SA) 67 67.

128 D Nertsson (Swe) 69 69. 136 P Eeles 69 67. 137 A Peniter (Aus) 67 70. D Clarke 67 70; W föley (Aus) 70 67; A Cohart 69 68; I Woosnem 69 68; F Couples (US) 68 69; 138 Z Moe (Burna) 68 70; A Cohart 69 70; A Hughes (Aus) 67 70; P Cuny 69 70; A Hughes (Aus) 67 72; D Curke (Pus) 68 70; H Cark 70 68; I Aok (Japan) 70 68; P Cuny 69 70; A Hughes (Aus) 67 72; D McKenzie (Aus) 69 70; R Willie (Aus) 73 65, 139 D Ferdon (Aus) 69 70; P McGirley 71. 68; Choi Sang-ho (S Nor) 72 67; D Dunskey (US) 71 68. 140 R Claydon 73 67; I Day (US) 87 73; J Van de Velde (F)69 71; A Hunter 69 71; P Sendor (Aus) 69 71; S Forance 68 72; P Moes (US) 69 71; C Parry (Aus) 72 68. 141 °C Plaghol (Tho) 72 68; T Price (Aus) 69 72; P Gunesageara (Matay) 71 70; D Bransdon (Aus) 70 71; S Sonner (Garl 71 70; M Harwood (Aus) 71 70; J Payne 73 68, 142 D

Cole (Aus) 69 73; Halen Chin-sheng (Fal) 69
73; R Groen (Aus) 73 69; F Lindgron (Swe)
71 71; A Sherborne 68 74; J Sonfor (Aus)
71 71; P O'Melley (Aus) 72 70; R Burns 73
69; J O'Neefe (US) 70 72; S Mort (Spen)
74 68; A Langer (Sen) 68 74; C Cover (Fr) 72
70; J Townsend (US) 68 74; C Cover (Fr) 72
70; J Townsend (US) 68 74; P McWhinney
(Aus) 72 70; A Gilligan (Aus) 73 69; Non Jung
Duk (S Nor) 72 70; R Allenby (Aus) 74 68;
J Singh (Ind) 69 73; Chus Guer-soon (Sing)
75 67, 143 M Moutend 73 70; G Norman
(Aus) 71 72; P Affects 69 74; S Ghra (Aus)
70 73; L Westwood 73 70; M Letton 68 75;
G Nickleus (US) 71, 72; P Fowler (Aus) 71
72; R Bosset (Swe) 71, 72; F Nobile (M2)
73 71; I Pyman 70 74, 148 P Broedhurst
74 72, 147 R Rolfeny 69 78, 150 A Forsbrand (Swe) 77 74, Liseptsafffied: W Smith
(Aus)

# **Newcastle not** complaining as freeze hits Cup 3

ture chaos caused this season by a couple of frozen weekends to appreciate how very fortunate nglish rugby has been during the previously clement years that have blessed the Courage Clubs' Championship since its inauguration in 1987.

Having heen told often enough by the Rugby Football Union that its ever-changing "structured season" cannot accommodate any more matches, we now find the final three months of 1995/96 plunged into congestion, with yesterday's postponement of half of today's Pilkington Cup last-16 ties compounding the situation created over the New Year.

Still, at least one club were not complaining, Once Dick Best, Harlequins' director of rugby, had told the match referee, Jim Coulson, that he would prefer not to travel to the north-east last night in order to make another, probably futile, inspection of the Kingston Park pitch at 11.15 this morning, Newcastle

were perfectly happy.

A decision on a new date for this match will have to go to the RFU's competitions sub-committee, the likely alternatives being 10 or 24 February. If it is the former, three of Rob Andrew's signings - Dean Ryan, Nick Popplewell and Graham Childs will have completed their 120-day registration.

The latter, which is the date the quarter-finals are due to be played, would be even better for Newcastle, because by then Tony Underwood, Gary Armstrong and Doddie Weir would also be eligible, adding a total of five full internationals and one A cap to the pool from whom Andrew can choose. The former England ontside-half

nimself became available today. "At the moment it's a First v Second Division clash and on the 10th they are starting to assemble a fairly potent outfit," Best said yesterday. "Without doubt it will make it a totally different tie. We just want the earliest possible date." Newcastle may beg to differ.

Also postponed yesterday

You need only look at the fix- Steve Bale preview ws the Pilkington Cur

ties that have

beaten the weather were three other Cup ties o; n the eastern side of the Penr lines, West Hartlepool v Cové intry, Nottingham v Gloucester Bedford v Bristol. West and Coventry are considering; rearranging for next Saturday, when England play Wales at ! fwick-enham, or possibly Sunday.

Leeds said last night the it their game against London' Irish would definitely take | place. Wakefield have covers a it College Grove which gives a their game against Bath, the h olders. a chance of proceeding, and Leicester's covers at V /clford Road have famously a llowed them to play matches; when others have been called off.

Sky's cameras, which had been intended for Nevvcastle, were yesterday diver ted to Leicester where Saracens will try to show their remarkable defeat of the Tigers at Southgate in November was no fluke and that their subsequent descent of the First Division - notwithstanding the investment of £2.5m by Nigel Wray, who now owns the rights to the Noddy books as well as the Wallaby stand-off Michael "Noddy" Lynagh - has been too

bad to be true. It is asking a lot. Leicester handsomely compensated for their Saracens misadventuge by winning their League game a Bath three weeks ago and, amid the many questions about how England and English rugby should be playing, they have a simple strategy which is habitually too powerful for anything the domestic game can throw at it.

On the other side of the Pennines there are covers on the ground too at Winnington Park. who are desperate for their tie against Wasps - Fifth Division v First - to go ahead after the erection of temporary stands in the hope of a crowd at least 10 times the usual 250. In Cheshire they feel themselves to be more sheltered from Siberia's icy blast

QUOTES OF

THE WEEK

Minding ought to de. Jesus Gilly Gill winning ought to de. Jesus Gilly Gill controversial president of Atletica Madrid football clob.

Rain favours might over art. Merio Zagalu/Brata's coach, blemes the weather for the 2-0 defeat by Merico in the Concecar Gold Cup final in the Angelogical Cup final in the Cup final in th

ico in the Concern Cold Cup final in Los Angeles.

Il was on £16 a week - and even then Jon found a way of taking money off me: Gary Linekac on his early deve with againt Jon Holges, at an after-dinner speech.

It topk wondering it, when I went to his movement, one of them would be list in my mouth. Chanda Rabbin, worked about the insects attracted to the stadium lights during her epic night match against Arantana Sanchez-Veano at the Australian Open.

When he got the break on me in the thirt, it's time for a miracle or get off the court. I went for the miracle. Andre Agastal after coming back from losing the first, two sets to beat Jim Courter for a place in the semi-finals.

### Palace's cup runs could pose problem

Basketball **DUNCAN HOOPER** 

If Crystal Palace complete a hattrick of National Cup wins over Budweiser League clubs in next month's semi-finals, they will pose an unprecedented problem for the organisers of Cup finals day at Sheffield Arena on Sun-day 3 March.

Palace could face two finals, tour hours apart. Palace, the First Division champions, are also through to the last four of the National Trophy, which excludes Budweiser League clubs. and have a semi-final against Croydon, whom they have already beaten by close to 50 points this season

The Trophy final is at noon. followed by the women's final two hours later and the senior men's final at 4pm.

Alton Byrd, the Palace player-coach and general manager, admits the chances seem remote of heating Sheffield Sharks. the Budweiser League champions and Cup holders, in next month's semi-linals, "But then." Byrd said. "no one gave us a chance of beating London Leopards in the last cight."

Leopards currently fourth in beating Austria 10-1 and Slow Budweiser League, lost vakia 11-4 on the opening day the Budweiser League, lost 80-75 to Palace in overtime on Wednesday and followed Doneaster Panthers out of the competition at the hands of the and purposeful performances by south London club, "In fact," a side who slipped into top gear Byrd added. "we match up after a shaky start in hoth pretty well with Sheffield for size | matches. After conceding a and play a similar game hased | second-minute goal to Austria, on patient offence and good de- taken with aplomb by Andrea

# **Britain looking towards Atlanta**

Great Britain, teetering on the edge of Olympic qualification, play Malaysin this morning in their sixth game here, with a point for either side enough to give them a place in Atlanta.

Els had four weeks off at

home before winning the South

African Open in Cape Town last

week. "I had a lot of barbecues

and quite a few lagers. I'm

fresh. I'm thinking well. It is a good feeling to be playing well again. I haven't made a bogey

and that is unusual for me," he

Ominous talk. Ian Woosnam

also wintered well - "none of

this no drinking - and is lying on an ice-pack each night to

ease his back problem. A four-

Anything other than victory for Canada against Spain, in their game which follows Britain's match, will give the British their British camp, with so much support for hockey in this country resting on the tournament.

The manager, David Whittle, was in a forthright mood yesterday: "We shall be going for an allout win. We are best at going forward and Whits [coach David Whitaker] does not like negative play. What's more, we need a win to stop the idea that we are becoming the draw specialists." He was referring to the fact

PETER COLWILL

Hall vesterday.

reports from Glasgow

England's women made certain

of qualifying for the semi-finals

of the European Indoor Cup,

of the tournament at the Kelvin

These were two powerful

l Jelinek. England, galvanised

Bill Colwill reports from Barcelona on the Olympic hockey qualifying tournament

Nicholls inspires adventurous England

three of the eight teams falling by the wayside. Already Belgium and Belarus have drifted away from the rest of the pack. Both coaches made it clear

vesterday that the results of two recent encounters between Malaysia and Great Britain at Bisham Abbey, where Britain won 1-0 and 5-1, would have lit-

tle bearing on today's game. Volker Knapp, the German coach of Malaysia, said then that he felt Britain were in the top six or so in the world. Yesterday he was quite prepared to shake hands with Whittle and settle for that so far Britain have drawn a draw, but Whitaker's policy three of their four games. This, since England's limited success

by the arrival of Mandy Nicholls

whose penetrating runs threat-

ened constant danger, stormed

their way to a 5.1 interval lead.

Lorraine Marsden snatched

two early goals and in between

Tina Cullen finished a delight-

ful flowing move. Jane Smith

converted a corner to make it

four with less than 10 minutes

gone and Lynne Bollington

added the fifth in the last

Jackie Crook and Sam Wright had both scored from

second-half corners before

Crook hit the post with a pen-

alty stroke. Further goals fol-

lowed from Nicholls and Cullen

minute of the half.

of course, is largely the result of the type of qualifying tournament this is - a round-robin with just in the European Cup in Dublin has been to attack, and only the Dutch have scored more goals in this tournament.

Attacking hockey, coupled with the support of the specialist corner striker. Calum Giles, has brought its rewards and should hring celebrations today. Whittle's target is four points from their last two games and this is well within their reach.

There has been much talk in Barcelona as the International Rules Board started a series of meetings vesterday about the use of a specialist corner striker. The Dutch coach, Roelant Oltmans, who saw victory

snatched from his side on

Thursday when Giles scored a

late equaliser, said: "They are

before Lucy Culliford, with her

first touch in an indoor in-

ternational, rounded a defend-

er and laid on Marsden's third.

vakia, who lost 10-2 to Spain in

the opening match, was even

more emphatic, with eight goals coming in the first half. Crook

converted five corners, although

she again failed with a penalty

stroke and Nicholls scored two

including one marvellous effort

after riding two beavy chal-

lenges. There was a goal each

for Wright, Marsden, Bolling-

In the other pool, Scotland

made short work of Denmark

ton and Cullen.

England's destruction of Slo-

quite within their rights to do it but I don't like it, nor do many of the coaches here. It's not good for the game. My players have to practise passing, tack-ling and dribbling. He just has to practise one thing. It makes the difference, he has shown it."
Whitaker concedes he is none

too keen on the idea but admits, if he can exploit the rules to win another Otympic medal, then he will. The good news is that whatever is decided here, and it seems likely they will revert to the previous rule which allowed no substitution after the award of a penalty corner, the rules will not be changed before Atlanta.

Giles, who so far in the five games has only been on the pitch for 15min 42sec, from a possible 350 minutes, for his five goals, looks likely to add to his tally against Malaysia and Belgium in the last two games.

scored three as did Susan

Gilmour, including two in the

first five minutes of her indoor

The shock result was France's

1-0 win against Germany, who

had never been beaten by a

European country. Sophie Llo-

bet forced in a 15th-minute corner at the third attempt and

the Germans could find no way

past the French defence in

which Llobet and Sophie Le

JOSSEC WETE OUISTANDING.
EUROPEAN BENDOR CUP (Kehle, Hall, Glas-gow): Peol & Fance 1 Germany C; Scotland 12 Dermant 1: Germany 10 Dermark 1: Scotland 4 Parace 0, Peol & Spain 10 Stockie 2: England 10 Austra 1; England 11 Slockie 4; Spain 12 Austrie 0.

international debut.

# Australia 502-9 dec

Sri Lanka ravaged

by rampant Waugh

Sri Lanka 80-0

Sri Lanka faced a daunting task to avoid defeat in the third and final Test after the allrounder Steve Waugh lifted Australia to a formidable firstinnings total with a fine century in Adelaide yesterday. Waugh plundered the Sri

Lankan nttack for 170 in a marathon seven-hour innings before Mark Taylor, the Aus-tralia captain, declared an hour before the close on 502 for 9. The tourists reached 80 with-

out loss at the close, still needing 223 runs to avoid the follow-on and the likelihood of a third successive Test defeat. The Sri Lanka opener, Sanath Jayasuriya, responded positively with a succession of attacking shots, including one cover drive which went for six, to remain unbeaten on 47 alongside Chandika Hathurusinghe on

Resuming on 70, Waugh hit 13 fours and one five on his way to a second successive century against Sri Lanka, eclipsing his 131 not out in Melbourne in the second Test last month. He played a near-flawless innings before deflecting the first ball after tea on to his stumps. Australia have already

wrapped up the series 2-0 with victories in the first two Tests after reaching successive firstinnings totals of 500 for 6 and

The Sri Lankan bowlers once again struggled for penetra-tion and accuracy as Australia added to their overnight score of 239 for 5 with ease. The wicketkeeper Ian Healy hit an untroubled 70 and the pace bowler Paul Reiffel made a

Test-best 56. It was Waugh, however, who capitalised on Sri Lanka's lacklustre display. But it was an ag-onising dismissal for the New South Wales batsman, who watched helplessly as the ball brushed against the stumps with only enough force to dislodge a single bail.

Sri Lanka paid the price for a poor fielding display after spilling a succession of catches during the innings, most sig-nificantly when Waugh was dropped on 37 by the wicket-keeper, Romesh Kaluwitharana, on the first day.

(Second day; Australia won toss) 

Courier for a place in the semi-finals.

The Lord blessed me with great ability to move around the court. I'm hoping for the final on Sunday it will be even better, so I'm bolding forward to that and excited about their and excited to see when the Lord has in store for me. Michael Chang explains his success as Agains rurs; out of mirables. In their semi-final.

If had to believe it. The headmasser told me. The last person you expect to whad you up is your headmasser. Paul Sampson, on being told a school of his call-up to the England rugby union squad. aughy union squad.

1. would rather the tans cheered the players. The color should have given the team encouragement in the less 15 manufes when they really needed it. The players did not deserve the abuse — they di done nothing wing. John Lamble, the Falkdit man-1 agas, detends his side against the her racking of fams after a 1-0 deteat by itemsevels sent them to the hottonia. of the scottist Premier Disiston.

We don't view it as a Wictory. But it has put out a fire that was start-sed by someone else. Alim place, Total tentam chalment, leads to from their under the distribution of the control of the con Exis 100 per cent-lettory, the city has been completely exonerate Same Hammain, the Wimbleck

RACING: Top jump jockeys' agent Dave Roberts works on through the freeze-up to put keep his clients busy

# Booking rides proves a monster operation

RICHARD EDMONDSON

Dave Roberts is a sports agent. but the only time he says "mon-ster" is while reading fairy stories to his two children.

In the old days agent used to be a nice word. It described the Avon lady and 007, but then along came the benefactors of the bousing boom of the 1980s and the creation of Eric Hall in the foothall world. Roberts. who could fill a jockeys' room with his stable of riders, is try-ing to change all that. "I don't class myself as an agent, it's not a word I like. I'd describe myself as someone who just books rides," he said.

When it comes to putting bottoms on saddles in jump racing there is no one to touch Dave Roberts. He represents 15 jockeys, many of them leading names, and makes what he calls "a good living", slicing 10 per cent off the 10 per cent his men receive in prize-money commission. There is, however, a price to pay, and it is time.

The windows of opportunity to speak to Roberts are open as frequently as those of a mountain lodge in the Rockies. The first words likely to be heard when you call him are "can you

hang on a moment please?".

It all starts at a time when even Postie has yet to pull his pants on. "I work from 5.30 to 9.30 [and that is not the passage when the hands pass each other just three times]," Roberts said. "You get calls any time between those hours."

Phase one is trawling through the entries and form books, pinpointing the likely winners for his cavalrymen. Contact with the

which Roberts views at his to-cal bookies (and a hugely professional sight he looks too as he makes calls on his mobile phone between events). The agent leaves when the broom comes out to sweep away the dead slips and spends the rest of the evening back on the

This, it has to be said, does not happen all the time. Every year, without fail, Roberts takes the family abroad for a fortnight

track and wait for somebody to get me in.

Briefly the manager for an Indian owner who had horses with Geoff Lewis, Roberts first represented Jason Swift parttime. Swift lived with Dean Gallagher, and Paul Harley moved in with him. Soon, Roberts was attracting aspiring young men like Fagin, and his attention concentrated on the

winter game. Not many of Britain's train-

'Adrian has put in so much since coming over here it's a tragedy he hasn't been champion so far'

for the first two weeks in July (and presumably asks them what they have been doing for the previous 12 months). For the rest of the year, seven days a week, he is the chap who appears to have been the victim of a prankster with superglue who has sabotaged the telephone

During the ice age that has wept in this weekend, Roberts is hardly resting by the log fire with a Scotch in his hand. "In the bad weather trainers are ringing me up and jokingly asking if I'm taking it easy," he said. "Relatively I am, but there are still entries coming out."

Dave Roberts, though, has not always been as committed as this to the problems set before him. By the age of 12, a lot of the chalk he saw was not going on hlackboards hut rather against horses' names. "I used to skive off school and go to Kempton and Sandown and get the hus to Ascot," he said, both as a jockey and a person "I used to stand outside the it's a tragedy he hasn't been

ers greet newcomers to the sport with an invitation for tea. and Roberts was no exception. "Like anything else it has taken quite a long time to build up trust and respect," he said.
"But I feel I get on with 99 per cent of trainers well now and some have become friends."

The accelerator was really depressed in the early 1990s when Roberts took over the affairs of a young Irishman who was secking his fortune in Britain, a rider called Adrian Maguire. When the agent talks of Maguire he invariably uses the

"we" in discussing his fortunes. The jockey's narrow failure to win the championship in the last two seasons has obviously hurt both, but, like a father and son at sports day, it is difficult to tell if it was combatant or spectator who was most disappointed. "He [Adrian] bas put so much in since coming over here and he's grown so much

lieves he can satisfactorily pre-

race in preparation as we can al-

ways use a local course to get

him ready," Joanie Richards,

the trainer's wife, said yesterday.

"It would be between 10 days

and a formight hefore Chel-

course. Touch wood he is fine

at the moment, and Gordon had

gol him just right for Saturday.

but unfortunately the situation

Others with something to

look forward to are those who will benefit from the extra fund-

ing secured by the BHB. The

three novice contests over tim-

her to have their funds swelled

are Wetherby's Acomh Hurdle,

the Sidney Banks Memorial

Hurdle at Huntingdon and

Sandown's Ripley Hurdle. The Moet & Chandon Chase at

Kelso a week on Tuesday will

The new Ascot hurdle has

been made weight for age not

because organisers believe it will

be more popular than a limit-

ed handicap (they think the op-posite) but because several

conditions events have already

been called off this winter. The

Levy Board Hurdle, with

£15,000 in added prize money,

will be over two and a half miles.

also receive a transfusion.

was always looking hopeless."

"He won't go anywhere for a

pare One Man.

champion jockey so far, Roberts said.

To ride 194 winners, like he did in the first year we were close, and not be the champion is a scandal really, if someone was awake towards the end of that season I was on the phone to them and I watched every race. I was close to a ner-vous wreck so I hate to think of

the demands it placed on Adrian and Richard [Dunwoody].

"Last year I firmly believe we had the ammunition to win, but we had a freely excited." we had a freak accident. Adrian was riding as well as ever and we had all this ammo waiting, but then Desert Fighter ran through a wing at Hereford." After a fall at Leicester on

Tuesday, Maguire is again sicklisted with a knee injury. But as he was Roberts's professional springboard, Maguire is probably his favourite, though he does not let that affect riding deeisions. When two or more from the agent's stable are at a race meeting where there is a spare ride, he insists that the

trainer takes the pick.
It is ironic following the last two years that Roberts is now destined to contribute to his first jockeys' title with someone othcr than Maguire. Hc also represents Tony McCoy and David Bridgwater who, accidents apart, seem to have this campaign's test between them.

If either win the title Roberts. at 35, will reappraise his position as he will bave achieved his amhition in what he considers "a young man's game". If he goes, it will be bad news, not only for several jockeys but for British Telecom. In one quarter last year, the three lines and mobile telephone that are Roberts's essential tools cost him £2,000.



It's good to talk: Operating from his Reigate home in Surrey, Dave Roberts uses the form book to sort out likely winners from the entries before spending up to £2,000 a quarter on calls to trainers, persuading them to use his men Photograph: Adam Scott

# reports from Miami ing Union

jor testing grounds, the Olympic Classes Regatta here, he said: "I think most of the sailors are looking forward to Savannah. There were a lot of things we

Of greater excitement to him was the prospect of persuading the 100-plus countries in his organisation to adopt a new high performance dinghy. "I believe the youth of the world needs some new dinghies," he said, acknowledging that Britain was setting the pace for the rest of the world.

He wants to see some trials this autumn, ahead of the IYRU's annual general meeting in London, but conceded that be may not be able to carry enough delegates with him to vote the new machine into place in time for the Sydney Olympics in 2000, "Whether I can do that is questionable," he said. "But I am sure I can bring them round for 2004, I think I can win this mission to per-

made widely available, "I think there should be a policy to make the sailor important, not the equipment, so by definition it should not be high-priced," be

Britain went into the second day of the Miami regatta having seen the 470 duo of John Merricks and Ian Walker lying second to the Olympic gold medallist Jordi Calafat, of Spain, despite testing a new boat, mast and sails. Their women counterparts, Bethan Raggatt and Sue Carr, were also

Ben Ainshe, at 18 the youngest lo be picked to sail for Britain at the Games, came first and second in his first two Laser races. He was then penalised with a 720-degree turn at the start of the third race but fought his way back to finish 12th.

# **Frost hits Cheltenham** for third time in a row

the suggestion that today's card

could be moved wholesale to

Monday, given the bleak fore-

cast. Lingfield's all-weather fix-

ture stands alone today, as may

are inspections tomorrow for

RICHARD EDMONDSON

NAP: Impington

(Lingfield 140)

NB: Halbert

(Lingfield 3.20)

and meant the new upholder of

jump racing's appeal, One Man,

would not get the opportunity to prove that his excellence ex-

tends to the undulating arena

Indeed, the grey will now go straight to the Gold Cup in an

effort to bury the memory of his

previous visits to the course. One Man has run just twice at Prestbury Park, when finish-

ing 30 lengths behind Gaelstrom

as a novice hurdler in 1992, and

then a poor ninth behind Mon-

sieur Le Cure when favourite

for the Sun Alliance (Novices')

Chase two years ago. Gordon

Richards, the seven-year-old's

trainer, does not voice disqui-

et about this record outside his

at the base of Cleeve Hill.

There was little time given to front door however, and be-

The abandonment of Chel-tenham, but where will depend

tenham also look with it the Pil- on which course offers the best

lar Property Investments Chase ground and kindest clerk of the

Jack Frost must have once had a really bad day's punting at Chellenham. The conspiracy of the elements against the Gloucestershire course continues with the loss of a third consecutive card this afternoon, Southwell on Monday as there writes Richard Edmondson.

The last time Cheltenham the turf meetings at Ayr and raced was on 8 December. This Plumplon. has denied lop hurdlers a run in events such as the Bula and today's Cleeve Hurdie, Kempton's Christmas Hurdle was also lost. But help is at hand for those searching for a prep race for the Chellenham Festival.

A new conditions contest, the Levy Board Hurdle, will be held at Ascot a week on Wednesday, it was announced yesterday, while there will be increased funding of three other hurdle races in the next two weeks. In addition, the Great Yorkshire Chase, which was lost in today's abandoned Doncaster card, will now be transferred to the first March meeting at Town Moor.

Those in charge at Cheltenham were left searching for small specks of comfort following an abandonment which came after three weeks of clear weather. They came up with the view that less racing meant less chance for borses to get injured before the Festival, and the thought that National Hunt racing's showpiece will now be run on near virgin turf.

Swing lies low

until autumn

# **Pearce riles Durkan**

Celtic Swing, not seen oo a track since last summer, is unlikely to race again until the autumn with the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe and Breeders' Cup Turf among banned Pearce for two days for his targets.

The colt is fully recovered from the knee injury, sustained during the Irish Derby, that ended his 1995 campaign, Nick Babbington, racing manager for owner Peter Savill, said yes-

However, although Celtic Swing will be put back into training by Lady Herries immediately, he will undergo a patient build-up and not reappear until the back end of the Flat season once the ground eases.

Celtic Swing bad been en-ered for the Dubai World Cup n March but had been made only a reserve for the race.

Two lop amateur riders, Lydia Pearce and John Durkan, exchanged angry words after a incident in the first race at Southwell yesterday. After the stewards had investigated, they

careless riding. She had steered Gold Blade, the 13-8 favourite, to an easy sixlength win but the stewards found that after five furiougs of the 12-furlong amateurs' event Pearce had hampered Durkan's mount, Father Dan, who had in turn impeded Anthea Farrell's Comtec's Legend. But later, Pearce's husband

Jeff, the trainer of Gold Blade, did not seem in a conciliatory mood ."Lydia and John did get a bit close," he said. "She probably went by him too fast and he got upset." Durkan, however, was ad-

mant that one of them would have ended up on the floor had be not reined back his mount. "The stewards saw fit to suspend her for two days, which says it all. Dangerous riding is dan-gerous riding." Durkan said.

The stewards allowed the placings to stand as it was deemed the interference had not affected the result. Both Father Dan and Comtec's Legend were unplaced.

The Jockey Cluh is to hold two inquiries after horses trained by John White and Jeremy Glover have tested positive for flunixin, a prohibited substance. Take Two, trained by White, was found to contain the substance after a race at Stratford on 26 October last year, as was Glover's Croft Pool after running at Newmarket 12 days

### LINGFIELD

1.40 Impington 2.10 Agent 2.45 Hand Of Straw

3.20 Halbert 3.50 Distinct Beauty (nb) 4.20 WILD STRAWBERRY (nap)

STALLS: 5f & 1m outside: Remai

BRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers are best at 64 and 64. Equitrack sauface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

Recorourse is south-case of town on B2028 Edeabridge road. Lingüeld rullway station served by London Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: All enclosures 59. Annual mem-bers of Cheltenham, Ascot, Kempton and Sandown will be admitted free, on the production of their 1996 metal badges. CAR PARK: Club £3; remainder fre-

SIS RACING

mers at a ratio of 17.1% group a less to a \$1 kvel stake of \$14.67; Lord Huntings/on — 55 winners, 166 runners, 21.1% \$20.56; A Moore — 34 winners, 343 runners, 0.01%, \$18.75; M \$6baston — 33 winners, 37 runners, 17.1%, \$11.85; W A O'Gorroan — 23 winners, 17.3%, \$34.45; G L Moore — 26 winners, 223 runners, 11.7%, \$58.02; B Hollinsbend — 23 winners, 155 runners, 14.8%, \$51.82

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: L Dettori — 81 winners, 236 rides, 25.8%, +\$553.75; J West — 56 winers, 241 rides, 23.2%, +\$40.47; R Cochrane — 44 winers, 251 rides, 17.5%, -\$26.75; Il Biggs — 41 winers, 402 rides, 10.2%, \$159.98; T Quinn — 38 winers, 216 rides, 17.6%, -53.78; Emma O'Gorman — 32 winners, 159 rides, 20.1%, -512.69.

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DATS: Chemonst (1.40) won here on Thursday. Distinct Beau-

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNEES: Copper Bright (1.40) & Ultra Boet (3.20) travel 270 miles from P C Haslam's Middleham stable in North Yorkshire; Red Aculate (1.40) covers 268 miles from J Berry's Cockerham yard in Lancashire; Agant (2.10), Place Essence (2.46) & Locken (3.20) Lravel 368 miles from J L Eyre's Sutton Bank stable in North Yorkthire; Chemeast (1.40) covers 254 miles from D Nicholls' Sessay yard in North Yorkshire Montrestar (1.40) travels 198 miles from P D Evans's Leighton stable in Powys, Swya-ford Flyer (4.25) covers 150 miles from J A Harris' Bottesford yard in Leicestershire.

# 1.40 CRUSADER CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,700 added 3YO 5f Penalty Value £2,736

|   | COCC-OT | GIBBOOKS (2) (D) (D t GROUP) ( 190106 3 3                     |                  |
|---|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 2 | 0-      | PING-PONG BALL (285) (Newt) and Co Ltd) T Watson 8 12         | Dean McKeenn     |
| 3 | 243534  | BORN A LADY (93) (D) (D Vonodicty N Littmoden 8 20            | _TG McLaughtle 2 |
| 4 | 50-4425 | COPPER SRIGHT (1A) (Great Setty) P Hastern 8 9                | J Fortune        |
| 5 | 430300- | MONTRESTAR (127) (D) (John Pughi P Beins 89                   |                  |
|   |         | RED AGUISLE (10) (Laurel (Leisure) Limned) J Berry 89         |                  |
| 7 | 0502-33 | SOUTON D'OR (14) (Mrs. J Western) P Howing 8 6                | J Qulen          |
| 8 |         | SUPREME ELLISION (ALIS) (John Berry) John Berry 8 4           |                  |
| 9 | 0443-46 | MEPINGTON (10) (The Sun Puness Club) W Mur 7 12               |                  |
|   |         | MORKEY ZANTY (10) U L Hams) J L Hams 7 12                     |                  |
|   |         | ~ 10 declared -                                               |                  |
|   |         | Chemenst, 9-2 Born A Lady, 6-1 Mankey Znaty, 7-1 Boston D'Or, |                  |

per Bright, Red Aculcie, 10-1 Mostrector, 16-1 Super 1995: Ultra Beet 3 8 9 J Stack 4-6 (P C Hasiam) 7 ran

FORM BUIDE

CHEMICAST showed much-improved all-weather form to win a course and distance handicap on Thursday and should be able to gain a quick follow-up. The Chilibang colt won museries at Goodwood and Polikestone last season when with Binen Meehan and showed a liling
for this fast file furiongs to beet Denicing Jack a comflotable length and a half two days
ago. Denicing Jack provides a useful yeardsick for form comparisons in this race. He split
Boutoo DYOr and Copper Bright when fourth to Last But Not Least on January 1.3 and they
are hald on that showing. A better chance is held by Monitory Zamity, who followes a Wolverhampton seller win with a stort in Krystal Max here (6)). She was just over four lengths behand Dancing Jack then but does a gist a healthy weight concession from my selection. Isopington
would have a decent chance on her best from off a low weight, but she is running poorly
and finished nine lengths behand Dancing Jack here on January 6 when fourth to Krystal
Mex. Born A Lady can pose a big threat if fit for this first run since October. She won first
time up in Southwell in May, so there is every chance that lack of a recent run with not be time up in Southwell in May, so there is every chance that lack of a recent run with not be a problem and she held her form well on turi afterwards. Montrestar won first time up at Ripon in April, so she too may not be hindered by an absence since September. Red Aculation Wolverhampton third to Boffy was a decent effort (Impington such and Money Zanty seventh) but ha is proving difficult to win with.

Selection: CHEMCAST

| 210   | £4,500 added 3YO 1m Penalty Value £3,032                      |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 052-2 | AGENT (10) (SIF) (M Gletstri) I Syre 90                       |
|       | ANAK-KU (16) (HRH Sultan Ahmad Shah) Mass Gay Kelleway 9 0    |
| 00-0  | HEVER GOLF EAGLE (?) (Hever Facing Club III) T Naughton 9 0   |
|       | TORMOURT (USA) (16) (Corolan Partnership) Lord Huntington 9 0 |
| 4     | HIGHLIGH(TS (21) (Bloomsbury Stud) D Morrs 8 9                |
| 00-0  | MOGIN (7) Ohios L A Elliott) J Finch-Heyes 89                 |

- 6 declared 
BETTING: 8-13 Agent, 9-2 Arest-Nu, 6-1 Highlights, 10-1 Tormount, Hever Golf Engle, 20-1 Magin
1995: Whackdord Squeers 3 9 0 A Clark 8-1 (C A Cyzer) 6 cm FORM GUIDE

ABENT, bought out of Willie Haggsa's yard for 16,000ghs, has run well both starts for Les Eyre at Southwell and Wolverhampton, going down three-quariers of a lensiti in Kinda Hax. ASENT, bought out of Wille Haggar's yard for 16,000 ghs, has run well both starts for Les Eyre at Southwell and Wolverhampton, going down three-quariers of a length to King's Har-mony or a maiden and then running Briganoone (well beaten yesanday) to a neck in his first handicap. That last run was over seven furlongs and Agent was headed close home having led over a furlong out. He did not help his cause by pulling hard early on, but sta-mine should not be a problem round here, even over an edra furlong. Anak-Klu and Toer-sount were besten a long way in the course and distance malden won by Well Drawn here on January 11. Anak-Klu showed the greater promise and may improve sufficiently to prove the main danger, Highlighta was well backed on her debut when 14 lengths fourth to Posen Gold over ten furlongs here. The drop to a mile may help. Minglis and Hever Golf Eagle showed little in Princely Sound's race last week.

# 2.45 CHURCHILL CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £4,500 added

| Ľ | - 10    | 1m 2t Penaity value £3,132                                             |
|---|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 0012-05 | SWEET SUPPOSEN (9) (C) (Ars Christine Rawson) C Dwyer 5 9 7            |
| 2 | 45005-3 | GALLIC VICTORY (10) (Anthony M Small) John Berry 5 9 1 M Feation (     |
| 3 | 04305-6 | SHUTTLECOCK (22) (Mrs Anna L Sanders) Mrs N Macaulcy 5 8 12S Sanders & |
| 4 | 2000-13 | HAND OF STRAW (9) (Mrs Louse Murphy) P Marphy 4 8 10                   |
| 5 |         | MASNUN (USA) (9) (CD) RW Page R O'Sullian 11 8 9                       |
| 6 |         | MANDY'S BET (USA) (104) (Im W Smith) N Calagrap 4 8 2                  |
| 7 | 050656- | PINE ESSENCE (USA) (40) (D) (X Meynet) J Eyre 5 8 1                    |
| B | 36000-0 | SCOTTISH PARK (17) (CO) (Ceathern Ltd) J L Hams 7 7 12 Quian (         |
| 9 |         | LASER LIGHT LADY (R A M Rececourses Ltd) N Lamoden 4 7 20              |

BETTING: 11-8 Masseus, 5-2 Hand Of Straw, 4-1 Sweet Supposin, 12-1 Pine Essence, 14-1 Galli Victory, 16-1 Shafflecock, 20-1 Mandy's Bet, 25-1 Laser Light Lady, 33-1 Scottist; Park 1995: Mediand 5 8 3 O Harrison 15-2 (W G M Turner) 8 ran

FORM GUIDE MAND OF STRAW won a Woherhampton (Inf) Colyds) seller the month and ran well on his Equitors to both when their to Massiman over a mile here on January IB. He should be well selled by the step up to ten furiongs. Hand Of Spow has a 5th pull with Massium for under two lengths and is fancing to overrum placings. Massium goes well here and is effective from seven furiongs to this distance, but is less likely to improve for the step up in distance them the selection. Sweet Supposite finished fifth in that race, beaten about two and a helf lengths, and mees Massium 2th worse and Hand Of Straw Th worse, Gettle Victory was third be-hind Tribal Peace here two weeks. En French Mandy's Bett managed a third over hurdes at Evreux, but her first run for Newte Callaghen saw her pulled up at Kempton and her Flat form in France was moderate. Laser Light Lady faces a stiff task on her debut, while Scot-

### 3 20 COMET HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,650 added 6f Penalty Val-

| Ľ  |         | ue £3,254                                                             |
|----|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  |         | AGWA (63) (CO) (I A Beker) R (I Sulhan 7 10 0                         |
| 2  | 000-552 | ULTRA SEET (7) (C) (D) (Per Express Ltd T/A November P Hastern 4 9 12 |
| 3  | 4440-20 | INVOCATION (7) (CD) IR Kernani A Moore 9 9 11                         |
| 4  | 20134-0 | SQUIRE CORRE (18) (G Harwood) G Harwood 4 9 9                         |
| 5  |         | FORT KNOX (7) (C) (Mass C Markowski) R Flower S 9 0 M Tebbritz 4      |
| 6  |         | LOCHON (24) (D) (J Lynam) J Eyre S 8 9 R Loppin 12                    |
| 7  |         | PEARL DAWN (78) (D) (Mrs E Keep) G L Moore 8 8 7 5 Whitworth 1        |
| В  | 13404-0 | JERSEY BELLE (15) (D) (D A Poole) P Malon 4 8 4S Sanders 10           |
| 9  | 0065-24 | HALBERT (9) (T Barket) P Burgoyne 7 8 3                               |
| 10 | 000305- | DESERT WATER (39) (Ness Julie Seth ) Bindge 4 8 3 J Quirm 7           |
| 11 | 00343-U | PRINCE RUDOLF (21) (D) U T Hemago) Mrs N Macauley 4 8 2               |
| 12 | 000000  | SHAVNER PORMEN (15) (R M Rouge) R Groups 5 7 11                       |

BETTING: 4-1 Port Knox, 5-1 Pearl Days, 11-2 declared - BETTING: 4-1 Port Knox, 5-1 Pearl Days, 11-2 Uttra Best, 6-1 Lachon, Helbert, 6-1 Innocation, 10-1 Spaire Corrie, 12-1 Jussy Beffe, Agent, 16-1 Dayset Water, Prince Radell, 20-1 Sheynes Domeine 1996: Nordco Prucess 4 9 9 R Cacharde 5-1 GR Oldroyd: 11 can FORM GUIDE

LOCHON did well on his Equitrack debut when third to Cheeky Chappy over the 5f. He is equally effective at this top and should appreciate the return to this surface after finishing only minh to Super Rocky at Wolverhampton last time. Fort Knox is in good form, last week instring that to Relate in the Laciforche All-Webster Troph Final here over seven furlangs—through eight in the factor of the Sharp limp on January 6, was found in Random's race last time after setting the poce and has a 4lb pull with Fort Knox, who finished just over a length in form of him. Pearl Dewin has not been out since finishing fith to Friendly Brave here on November 10. Ultra Beet has faced soff tasks in handleaps of the set of the finishing him week finishing a length and a half sonned has Kneiden. up insmoly strave nere on novembor 10. Ultra Beet has faced stiff tasks in handicaps of tate and did well in a claimer lost week, finishing a length and a half second to Milos. Squirre Corrie had Ultra Best well behind when winning at Newmarket in September.. His first run for Guy Harwood saw him finish fourth to Friendly Brave here but he disappointed behind Chewit last time. Again may need to drop further in the weights. Selection: LOCHON

# 3.50 CHALLENGER HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,450 added 3YO 1m Penalty Value £3,673

|   |            | · onancy range project                                              |
|---|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 614-1      | BANZHAF (USA) (23) (C) (Bryan Pennicki G L Moore 9 7S Whitmorth 4   |
| 2 |            | DISTINCT BEAUTY (7) (C) (N 6 Yong) W O'Gorman 8 11 Emusa O'Gorman 1 |
| 3 |            | TO THE WHORE (59) (C) (Pennine Partners) G L Moore 8 3              |
| 4 | 0600-1     | SOVEREIGN PRINCE (1/9) (C) (M Tabor) N Calleghan 7 20 Quion 3       |
|   |            | - 4 declared -                                                      |
| M | ilmum weig | ht: 7st 10lb. True handictio weisht: Sovereith Prince 7st 8lb.      |

RETINES 6-5 Distinct Beauty, 15-6 Sovereign Prince, 7-2 Basshad, 10-1 To Tae Whire 1995: Nordines 3 8 11 W Woods 13-2 (R W Armstrong 7 ran

SOVEREIGN PRINCE was highly thed on his Newbury debut in September behind Mick's Love over this trip, but was well beeten and showed lattle in his next two runs on the all-weather. His first handleap run caught the eye, however, when he finished down the field behind Krystal Max, carrying 5to more than his true handleap mark, over six furlongs here, he was well backed two weeks ago when besting Rawi a length and a half over 71 and shaped as though this trip was needed. Banathar's wins have both been over seven furlongs nere, last time making at no beat Bels Of Holland three lengths. He is 7th ingher now and the number-up did not boost the form next time. Distitute Beausty can pose a begint threat following her three-length with from Beth Knight over ten furlongs lists week. To The Whitre, stablemate to Banzheri, is unproven at this trip.

# 4.25 CENTURION HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,500 added fillies 1m 4f Penalty Value £3,089

|                | 3630-12                                                                      | WILD STRAWSERRY (S) (C) (SF) (Copylorce Ltd) Miss 8 Sanders 7 10 0   |  |  |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
| !              | 01400-6                                                                      | ELLY FLEETFOOT (21) (A.S. Rext) 8 Machan 4 8 12G Hannon (7) 3        |  |  |
|                | 5/05055-                                                                     | SACRED MERROR (270) (C E Britaini C Britain 5 8 11 M. Larson 4       |  |  |
| ١              | 550040-                                                                      | UNCHARTED WATERS (109) (R M Cyzeri C Cyzer 5 8 8                     |  |  |
| ,              | 0305-25                                                                      | NEVER SO RETE (14) U.S Gudeni O Arbustnot 4.8 S                      |  |  |
|                | 221036-                                                                      | AUL THE JOYS (92) (C) (Mrs G M Gooderham) C Cyzer 583 J Quinn 2      |  |  |
| •              | 204-465                                                                      | SWYNFORD FLYER (7) (Devid Petalor) J A Harris 7 7 10 C Ademson (5) 7 |  |  |
| ~ 7 dectared - |                                                                              |                                                                      |  |  |
| -              | Salata an underlain 700 40th Toron hamafaces ambitos Consolinas Dans 700 0th |                                                                      |  |  |

ALL THE JOYS can make her first appearance on this surface a winning one. All The Joy ALL THE JOYS can make her first appearance on this surface a winning one. All The Joys hasn't raced since a sixth of 23 behind Snow Princess at Newmarket towards the end of October, but she was returning from a ten-week break when bearen a length and a quarter by Pearl River at Follestone in August, so she can go well firsh. Stablement Uncharried Watters makes less appeal. Wild Strawberry, who won here over two miles a fortingit ago and was then a half-length second to Sr Norman Holt over the same top nine days ago, might find Im 4f on the sharp side and is 4th higher than last time Never So Ribe pulled too hard when unplaced against No Speeches over course and distance a fortingit ago. Swyndord Plyer could reach the frame, but Elly Fleetfoot makes no appeal on recent evidence and Sacred Mirror has not run since May.

Selection: ALL THE JOYS

### RACING RESULTS

SOUTHWELL 12.40: 1. GOLD HADE (Ads L. Pearce) 15-8 tav; 2. Modest Hope 8-1: 3. Tempering 12-1. 19 ran. 6, 4, () Pearce, Newmarket). Toke £2.40: £1.30; £1.40; £4.60. DF: £7.90. CSF: £14.92. Treast: £111.92. Tre: £13.10. 1.05; 1.50 ABUZPIG I Wester) 9-4 fay. 2. San God 12-1; 3. Indiahra 17-2. 10 ran. Sri-tt; 11. (Alass S Had, Middetami, Tatac £3.30; £2.00; £3.40; £1.90, Dr. £53.10. SSR £2.81.3 (reas: £1.85.69) fro: £53.90.

L URBER MOSHT OUT (Mess Diana Jones) 8-1; 2, We Mortarly 5-2 fav; 3, Becomi Lones 3-1, 10 ran, 9, sh-hd, U Eyre, Thursk, Totac £5,10; £2,10, £1,10, £1,40, DF; £8,50, CSF; £28,66, Trocast; £69,63, Troc £5,80.

14-1: 2. Press Ses 9-1: 3. Yeoman Other 10-11 fav. 7 rm. 1, 2½- (M Cemecho, Mel-ton). Take: £11.70; £7.30, £4.00. DF: 52.70. CSF: £11.4 78. 3.60: 1. CHELIDANG BANG (P Roberts) 8-1:

arick 11-2, 7 ran. 1/2, 1/4, U Berry, Cocker-ham). Toke: £13.10; £3.00, £2.40, DF: £20.00, CSF: £25.18.

Welsh Melody 6-4 fey; 3. Down The Yard 14-1. 20 ran. 2, 5. U Payne, Newmorket). Toks: £4.10; £1.10, £2.00, £4.20. DF: £8.60, CSF:

6, %. (M R)an, Newmarket). Teles £1.80; £1.10, £1.30, £5.50. DF: £6.40. CSF: £6.86. Tricast: £40.98. Tric: £29.50.

Jackpot: Not won; a pool of £4,960.01 is carried lorward to Lingfield today. Quadpot: £89.20. Placepot: £385.70. Place 6: £317.64. Place 5: £208.60.

The meetings at Doncaster and Lingfield were both ahan-

# Union happy at **Olympic** logistics

STUART ALEXANDER

All previous worries about the problems of running the Olympic regatta in Savannah, about 250 miles from Atlanta, were dismissed yesterday by Paul Henderson, previously the highly apprehensive president of the International Yacht Rac-

Speaking at one of the ma-

suade. It has to be done.

He also wants any new boat

progressing well.
The world youth champion,

# **Bonaly takes** charge as **Britons slip**

ice skating

Stephanie Main, the British skaler, yesterday failed to qualify for the women's final after finishing a disappointing 26th in the short programme at the European championships in Sofia. Main needed to be in the top

24 to reach the closing stages, where the five-times champion Surya Bonaly will have the advantage after a close contest. Bonaly, of France, took a narrow lead after two tie-breaks were needed to separate her and second-placed Irina Slutskaya, of Russia.

Tanja Szewczenko, of Germany, coming off a poor performance at her recent national champiouship, held third place with another Russian, Maria Butyrskaya, fourth. The winner of the short programme last year, however, the eventual runner-up, Olga Markova of Russia, could only manage 11th place after two serious errors in her routine.

Steven Cousins, the British champion, was very disap-pointed by his failure to win a medal in Sofia. "It was so close, but close doesn't cut it," the 23vear-old from Deeside said.

Cousins, the seven-times British champion, went into the free skating final on Thursday in third place but, on a night of erratic skating, he fell on his first attempted triple axel.

He later did a double loop instead of the planned triple and a double flip-double toe loop jump combination where he had intended two triples. "It would have been lovely

leaving with a medal round my neck," said Cousins, whose fourth place was still four positions higher than be achieved at last year's European and World championships. He fin-ished behind the Ukrainian, Viacheslav Zagorodniuk, and the Russians, Igor Pashkevich and Ilya Kulik, on a night when Zagorodniuk was the only skater to realise his potential. A medal would have been the

first for a British man in the Europeans since Rohin Cousins no relation - won the event ahead of his Olympic title in



Y THE INDEPENDENT **Horse Racing** Results 6839 - 111 171

Commentary 0839 - 111 175 

1 20: 1. CREEK MICHT OUT (Miss Diana

2.00: 1. ISBA (R Lappn) 4-1; 2. Mosts 12-1; 3. Austha 5-2 fav. 16 ras. 2½. hd. U Eyre, Thurski. Tota: £6.30; £2.60, £3.90, £1.30. DF: £56.90. CSF: £56.64. Thu: E51.60.

2. Westman's Weigh 9-4 fav; 3. Young Fred-

£16.71. Trio: £74.30. 4.00: 1. NINGCHIP BOY (Tives) 4-5 fev; 2. Nielemani 11-2; 3. Pc's Craiser 14-1. 10 ran.

# sport

FA CUP FOURTH ROUND: Distinguished member of Wembley hall of fame meets old adversaries today. Guy Hodgson reports

# Porterfield back to haunt Leeds

Maybe when you have got 27 of the things, you can afford to be wanton with them. When Colin Todd was asked this week about FA Cup finals, he said he would gladly have sacti-ficed some of his England caps

to have played in one. The
Bolton Wanderers manager did
not presume to put a value on
the winning goal at Wembley.
Not that he would have to go
far to ger an estimate. The club
president. Nat Lofthouse. scored twice in Bolton's 2-0 win over Manchester United in 1958, while Todd's newly apppointed coach, Ian Porterfield. got the most famous goal of his life against Leeds United in the final of 1973. FA Cup glory runs vigorously through the corridors of Burnden Park.

Porterfield, 50 next month. took on what most would assume is the nearest thing to mission impossible - helping keep Bolton in the Premiership - three weeks ago and, fate being what it is, almost the first thing he was con-fronted with was the FA Cup fourth-round draw against, of all teams, Leeds. Memorics of 23 years ago came flooding back.

In 1973 he was part of a Sunderland team whose Cup run

normally stirred by events on a football field. Among the Sec-ond Division's relegation candidates at Christmas, they were transformed by the appointment of Bob Stokoe as manager, sweeping past the then might of

'I was one of the lucky ones who achieved something that many people dream of'

Manchester City and Arsenal on the way to Wembley. There, every logical argument suggested the Wearside dream

would end. The opponents in the final were a Leeds team whose image was the antithesis of romance. They were hugely skilled but had a frowning hardness that had all but killed affection outside West Yorkshire.

gomery probably would have done. What a game he had." For six years running they had finished in the top three in the First Division and were champions the following season. fleeting moment, was the most Every Leeds player at Wemb-

famous right foot in football is reticent to talk about memories. I don't want to take attention away from Colin and the players at Bolton," he said. "It was a long, long time ago. I hit it right, I hit it sweet and it went in. These things bappen in football. I was one of the lucky ones

who achieved something many people dream of. It was nice for me, it was nice for the family but it was nice for a lot of others too. Particularly Bob Stokoe, who did such a terrific job with us, but most of all the people of Sunderland. It was no more special for me than for others." Porterfield arrived at Bolton

after a managerial journey that took him to Rotherham, Sheffield United, Aberdeen, Reading and Cheisea. The last appointment ended with his dismissal in 1993, which probably ranks as the worst point of his career, but one he confronts without rancour.

You have your had moments." he said with a low voice Photograph: Colorsport that still carries a strong Scottish has always been a beautiful



Schemer: Ian Porterfield, the Bolton coach, hopes to bring about Leeds' downfall again at Burnden Park this afternoon

accent, "Football's always been about ups and downs but I've always been a positive person. For every winner there has to be a loser. I roll my sleeves up and

work hard to put things right." Nowhere more so than at his next job after Stamford Bridge, in Zambia where he coached a national side which had lost 18 players in a plane crash to withm a match of making the World Cup of 1994, A draw against Morocco in Casablanca would have earned them a place in the United States, but they lost.

Porterfield then coached a club side in Saudi Arabia but was available when Bolton dismissed Roy McFarland as joint manager early in the New Year. "Tve known Colin since we played to-gether at Sunderland," he said.

"I knew from coming here as a player and a manager that this

Lofthouse down. Whether you there has been a 1-0 win over win, lose or draw you're well received. There's good continuity, 2-1 defeat at Newcastle. everyone seems settled here. Burnden Park has been re-

'I knew from coming here as a player and a manager that this has always been a beautiful place in terms of the welcome you receive'

Nice environment, lovely people. That's why I didn't have to think

place in terms of the welcome

you receive. Right from Nat

too hard about coming here." Porterfield has a five-month contract that will be reviewed by club, manager and coach in the summer although results since his arrival have shown an im-

ceiving letters from Tyneside since then, saying that Bolton are among the best sides to visit St James' Park this season, although Bolton are fed up with getting plaudits and no wins. A truly dreadful performance that vields three points would prob-

the Cup and in the Premiership

"The morale has been very good," he said. "The lads were beaten 3-0 in the third round of disappointed that the results weren't going for them hus they're in good spirits. They're chirpy and up for the games. They certainly don't give the impression of a team going out expecting to get beaten.
"We've got 14 League games
to turn the corner and so far it

has been encouraging. We were unfortunate to lose at Newcastie but we came away with great credit. We were playing a side who most people believe will win the Premiership and we com-peted very well. That can only help the players' confidence.

A win today would hardly cause an outbreak of self-introspection, either. "In the last few years the Bolton public have come to expect good runs," Porterfield said. "They got to the

and reached the play-offs at Wembley, so the fans are used to hig games. And this is a big game for us. Leeds are just 40

Photograph: Neal Simpson

miles up the road from here." The outcome of today's match is possibly the bardest to predict in the fourth round. Anyone searching for an omen would be interested to know, however, that Stokoe arrived at Burnden Park this week and spent an afternoon talking to his former charge. "He is a lovely man." Porterfield said, "and he takes time to see how his players are getting on." Significant? Porterfield dismissed the notion: with a snort. "What happened 20 years ago will have no bearing at all on Saturday."

It is nice for the people of Bolton to hope, though. They would probably give away a cou-ple of Colin Todd's caps for an-

# To blow it from here would be so tragic... so utterly typical

hy between Queen's Park Rangers and Chelsea was one of those rare occasions when television abetted rather than hindered match-going fans. The extra 24 hours to sleep off New Year's Eve revelries meant that Blues supporters saw 1996 in with a spring in their stride. In previous years we have always seemed to have to drag ourselves out of hed at some un-

in the 1973 FA Cup final

godly hour for an 11am kick-off. I found myself sitting next to a father and son who both supported Rangers. The boy was about eight and spent the halfhour before kick-off asking me questions about how Chelsea had been playing during the season, then dissecting my answers with his father to try and provide himself with the reassurance that the Superhoops were going to win three points in the battle against relegation.

The first half was the worst performance I have witnessed by two Premiership teams this season - countless passes went woefully astray. Then Bradley Allen scored a gem in the 70th minute and celebrated wildly. Matthew Brazier's own goal dcflated him somewhat but, as the boy kept telling me: "A point in a derby game has got to be considered a good result."

having been reading 90 for soared. I knew that as the ball

FAN'S EYE VIEW

No 134 Chelsea JON LADD

what seemed like an aeon, Paul Furlong rose and slotted in the winner. I rose as one with the massed Chelsea ranks to salute the victory.
When I looked down I saw

the boy, he was aghast and then held his face in his bands so that no one would see him crying. As the final whistle went I put an arm on his shoulder. I've been there enough times with Chelsea to know the emptiness that defeat brings. "It'll get better," I said, but I

knew he didn't believe me. The following Sunday found me nearly hoarse from screaming Chelsea to an unlikely victory against Newcastle in the FA Cup. It seemed highly improbable that the team of the moment would make the same mistake they had a month earlier when we had heaten them in the league, but despite squandering a hatful of chances and some increasingly nervous defending, we led 1-0 deep into injury-time. As the ball drifted With the scoreboard clock out for a goal kick, my heart

crossed high over the halfway line that the referee would filow his whistle and we would be in the fourth round.

Dimitri Kharin's kick defied description, as did the fact that, rather than stay on his line and let the defence close Les Ferdinand down, he ran forward, opening his legs just wide enough for the ball to be

poked through them.
I looked desperately for a lineman's flag and then to the referee; perhaps he had blown the final whistle before the ball bad gone in. Chelsea kicked off and sbattered these fragile illusions. I put my head in my hands and for a minute I was eight again.

And so the story almost ends. A final twist was provided when the draw decreed that in

the fourth round QPR would play Newcastle (or Chelsea). Three of us travelled up together to the replay. One of the party "had a feeling", sadly the last time he made that pro-nouncement we had lost 4-1 at bome to Manchester United.

at 2-1 down with two minutes to go when Ruud Gullit hooked the hall past Pavel Srnicek, it was difficult to tell who was the most amazed, the Newcastle fans that we had had the temerity to do to them what they had done to us, or our-

selves that they had let us. No more goals meant the game would be decided by penalties. Last year we had lost to Millwall through the dreaded spot kicks. Stnicek was playing a blinder and we were strangers in a strange land. On the whole, things had looked

Peter Beardsley missed, then Kevin Hitchcock saved Steve Watson's shot and after four penalties we were 2-0 up. To blow it from here would be so tragic. To blow it from here would be typical Chelsea. When Eddie Newton's shot

went in everything stopped for a second. He stood smiling at us and we grinned back. Then Wise dashed forward from the halfway line and pandemonium ensued.

On leaving the stadium the Newcastle fans wished us well for the rest of the competition and we told them they'd win the championship. I recognised the tears in their eyes... but this time they were different to the tears in mine.

# Clubs succeed in reversing Uefa ban

Rick Parry, the Premier League chief executive, was a relieved man after Tottenham and Wimhledon had their European ban overturned - and he then set his sights on restoring England's

lost Uefa Cup place.
Parry and Graham Kelly, his
Football Association counterpart, had flown to Geneva yeslerday to support the two
London clubs in their appeal
against the ban – ruling them out
of European competition the first
time they qualified in the next first years - imposed for their halfhearted participation in last summer's Intertoto Cup.

That appeal, accompanied by a wealth of documentary evidence, was successful, with fines of £90,000 for Spurs and £60,000 for Wimbledon levied instead. The fines, which with the costs add up to around £180,000, will be shared equally between the 20 Premiership clubs. Parry indicated that the next

step would be to try to regain the Uefa Cup place taken away from England because of the at-titude of Spurs, Wimbledon and Sbeffield Wednesday to the much-derided competition.

"There isn't an obvious route of appeal because this was a decision made by Uefa's executive committee but we're going to ask them gracefully if they will reconsider," he said. "I don't see this as a kind of victory," Alan Sugar, the Tottenham owner, said. "All we have done is get back

to the position that 90 other clubs in England have naturally every year, the right to earn a place in Europe.

For Tottenham, the value of a successful run in Europe next season could be in excess of £4m, dwarfing their share of the fine, but Sugar stressed that his club had still paid the price for doing the decent thing. "The reason we entered was

to protect British football from the punitive measures of banning all our clubs from Europe that could have devastated the game in this country," he said. "I feel it's a bit like us being accused of robbing a bank when we hadn't, being found guilty, but then being told not to worry because the

police would pay the fine."
For Wimbledon, there was a degree of disappointment that they had not been cleared totally and Ned Hammam, brother of the club owner, Sam, had another metaphor. "It's like putting out a fire that we didn't start," he said. Asked if English clubs would take part in the tournament in

future. Kelly replied: "You never say never. You don't know what the situation will be in the future."

Parry added: "We've already decided that we won't take part this summer because of the European Championship. We have learned our lesson now,

though. If we're going to take

part, we will do so properly - we

won't get it wrong again."

Bolton v Lords Potton v Londs.

Paicong retime to Bolton after sispersion but fellow defender laggert
(ankle) is unaveilable. Striver De Freitas is added to the squad-Lands are
concerned over the fitness of defenders Dorleo (thigh), Jobson fromstring) and Pemberton Com muscle).
Chapman. Ford: and Beesley are
suspended, withis harban, Mestings
and Paxiebe are de international duly.
Manager Wildinson musclendes between Seeney and Lilde in goal.

Chaptings w Breakfoots.

Chariton y Broutford Charton, y Broattord

Defender Humptrey is shallable again
for Charling after suspension but may
struggle to displace Brown, Brentford
are forged into one change as midlielder Canhem, on foan from West
Ham, is ineligible. Martin, Anderson
and Omigle compete for his place.

Evertos y Port Vale Beaton manager Royle names an un-changed, starting line-up, but, has Hinch allie replacing tinesworth on the substitutes bench. Vale's vetteran de-fancer HM is struggling to shake off a thigh injury. Midfielder Talbot is ex-pected to recover from a deed leg Huddersfield v Peterboro

Wingst Rowe is, filedy to, make the Huddersfield starting line-up at Collins expense. Defender Clark is in line to return for Peterborough after a knee injury. Sedgemore is expected to keep rits place. Bridgeshro v Wiesbiedos
Boros player-manager Robson has
been ruled out by 4 cell rigury and
Juninto (knee) is doubtful. The Dons
have in form midifelies: Earle suspended but there could be a surprise
Cup appearance from Jones. Striker
Eloku (bette is doubtful.

Notine Forest v Oxford Utd.
Forest look centain to be without captain Pearce (calf). His filesty replacement is Phillips. Oxford will be without captain Ford and winger Angel who have harnstring highers. Marsh deputies for Ford. Mr. manager Smith hes still to decide this will partner Moody.

Reading v Manchester Util Reading have goellveeping problems. Minaitor (thigh) faces a late fitness

- TEAM NEWS test while Hammond (chicken-pox) is test while Hammond (chicken-box) is recovering. Wdowiczyk (calf-and-Achilles tendon) is ruled out. Jones and Gilkes are likely to be called up, with Bamai switching to the centre of defence. Reserve goalkeeper Co-ton and McClair have been added to: United s squad. Pallister (back) miss-es his 11th game.

Shrewsbury v Liverpool Shrewshury's manager Davies, is awaring late fitness checks on central defender Walton (ankle ligaments) and striker Spink (hamstring). Liverpool manager Evans keeps the team that best Leeds 5-0.

Southampton v Crown

New signing Mariers is in line for the Saints Cup debut, Striker Wattern and be recalled to partner Walters will proside the attack. Rivers will proside the attacking speamend for Creat who will be without captain and certail defender Macauley (ground

Goelkeeper Weiker, cantain highly of and Cine Wilson are deniaged life. Totter sam. Central defander Entitle (shoulder) is set to be recalled to wolves and likely to replace highly.

Works and likely to replace Military
Work Ham v Grinnahy
Gordon has been included in Military
Gordon has been included in Military
Ham's 15-men squad which elitering
cludes Lamperd Inc. and Whithrest
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Grimsby defender Handelpes pried
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TOMORROW

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Gordon Cowans with European Con
and League Chairman and in honount
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of the competition as the Blades
built on their Titlebound defeat at
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# Edwards freed to tackle Bramley and continue his Cup run

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

Wigan will have their captain. Shaun Edwards, available to maintain his record of playing in every Challenge Cup lic since their astonishing run of 42 victories began in 1988.

Edwards' appeal against a one match ban for a high tack-le on Bradford's Robbie Paul

succeeded yesterday, leaving ever tie, they forced a Itt-10 draw that is well within their compass him free to face Bramley lomorrow in the fourth round "Obviously I'm glad," said Edwards, "If I hit someone I ex-pect to be suspended, but in this case I was innocent."

Bramley, four from the foot of the Second Division at the end of the season last week, can hark back to a famous Cup performance against Wigan in 1984. Ironically in Edwards' first-

at the now abandoned McLaren Field, and Wigan, coached by one Alex Murphy, would not even have taken the tie to a replay - and eventually reached Wembley for the first time in 14 years - had it not been for a try from Graeme West, the club's current coach. Bramley will not be as tricky a hurdle this time. Last season's beaten finalists,

Leeds, also seem to have a task

with an away tie at Swinton. They have James Lowes at scrum-half and Garry Schofield back in his specialist position of stand-off for the match at Gigg Lane, but Harvey Howard is still under suspension.

Just up the road at Rochdale.

the Hornets could find Thatto Heath, one of the two amateur clubs to reach this stage, a hand-ful if the St Helens-based side play as well as they did in beating Chorley in the last round. The new regimes at St Helens and Warrington get an early and demanding test. Saints' new coach, Shaun McRae, is first in the firing line, when his new side

take on Castleford today. McRae is without Joey Hayes, with a hamstring strain, but has Anthony Sullivan back on the wing and other recent absentees of the stature of Paul Newlove and Bobbie Goulding fit again. "They are a very talented bunch of players." McRae said after his first three days in charge. "I'm not trying to build Rome in a day but just offering a bit of guidance when it's needed."

Castleford covered their pitch before the onset of the severe weather and are confident of being able to stage the match. They will, however, be withTony Smith, whose appeal against a one-match ban was rejected yesterday. Graham Stead-man and Gareth Stephens have been named as the half-backs. with Frano Botica feeling that he

is not yet ready for the first team. Warrington's new coach, John Dorahy - no doubt with some advice from the cluh's other new appointment. Alex Murphy has made some significant changes for the visit to Oldham, out their England stand-off,

erree Nick Oddy during his side's 36-6 defeat of amateurs West Bowling in the third round of the Cup nearly a fortnight ago.

# **Old Firm** pair arrive in Lilliput

If dreams of players can take them into the realms of fantasy football before big games, the players and managers of Keith and Whitehill Welfare may have been struggling to keep the nightmare demons at bay this week.

The two small non-League clubs have been propelled into football's fast lane as they prepare to take on the might of Rangers and Celtic in the third round of the Tennent's Scottish Cup. They await their fate with

seat

excitement and dread. Home advantage has been wrenched from them by officialdom, which deemed their grounds unworthy of such oc-casions, and so Pittodrie and Easter Road have been hired.

Keith meel Rangers today, while Whitchill face Celtic tomorrow; the two smallest clubs in the competition facing the higgest. Not surprisingly, the bookmakers have installed Kei-

th as 20,000-I to lift the trophy. Jim Hamilton, the Keith manager, was looking on the hright side this week: "We'd have real nightmares if we looked too closely at the Rangers side and, to be honest, I haven't thought much about them at all yet.

"I'll wait until after lunch on Saturday before talking to the players, although I'm happy Paul Gascoigne is suspended. I would say we are as good as any team in the Third Division and several in the second. If everything was even we wouldn't stand a chance, but this is cup football and you have to hope for the best."

Like any manager in his po-sition. Hamilton has under his charge an assortment of partlavers who will wish to do their best and be able 10 at a higher level, while I have walk out of the ground at the end with heads held high.

Their town will be deserted on the day, with 7,500 tickets sold in a place with a population of 5,000. This is the closest Scottish football gets to the small town giant-killing of the FA Cup yet, such is the gulf between top and bottom, genuine cup shocks are isolated events.

"I've never played in front of more than 4,000 and many of the lads are the same." said Scott Taylor, the Keith playmaker. "I

David McKinney on the most distant of outsiders in this weekend's Scottish Cup third round

we keep the score down to six! "I've been daydreaming that in years to come I'll be able to say I scored against Andy Goram and Rangers." Whitehall Welfare are head-

ing for a sell-out against a resurgent Celtic, and they too can report record ticket sales. For a side which performs to 50 or 60 speciators on an average Saturday, 2,500 tickets sold on the first day of the public sale gives an indication of the level of interest in the area.

On such a momentous day even the manager, Dave Smith, is in danger of being wrapped up in the magic of the cup. He is toy-ing with the idea of getting in on the act, of dusting down the boots and making a farewell bow to the game at the age of 38.

"Il would be tempting, but 1 know I'll be nervous enough just looking over to their dug-out and knowing I'm pitting my wits against Tommy Burns. Celtic have players who have star status draped over them, so we'll be realistic about what we can do, in the knowledge that we'll have

to withstand a lot of pressure.
"The days of Berwick Rangers upsetting the mighty Rangers are in the past; Cellic are a professional side with professional players.

"I have players who are de-rmined to show they can play amhitions myself lo move on in management, and this is the platform we have been waiting for. In addition, the revenue from this one game will keep the club going well into the next

Smith can count on around £50,000 for this game but he is likely to be left counting the cash as a consolation at full time. His goalkeeper, Scott Cantley, is in no doubt as to his

hope we don't get stage fright in double figures. I'm not sayon the day and so far everyone ing I'll be happy to let in seven I've met has either asked for a or eight goals but 10 or more ticket or told me to make sure would be a disaster. I'll do my



Eight-ball: Nicky Hammond, the Reading reserve goalkeeper, trains yesterday after recovering from chicken pox in the hope of replacing the injured Bulgarian international, Borislav Mikhailov, in today's FA Cup tie against Manchester United at Elm Park

Photograph: Peter Jay

best to keep the score down because I don't want to be rememhered as the man who let

in 10 or 15 goals against Celtic." That kind of humiliation is the ultimate fear of any small club when jousting with the giants, and the players of both sides can learn a lesson from Alex Smith, the manager of Clyde, who took both Aberdeen and St Mirren to cup success.

In his days as manager of Stirling Albion, he watched his players go through the build-up to a big cup tie, only to find the occasion fell flat. The media had tryped up the

game for the whole week and I was hoping for a good 90 min-utes at the end of it, for the play-ers to remember, but our big task on the day.
"My worst nightmare is to let day lasted just 20 minutes by which time we were two goals down and the tie was lost.

# **Hibernian confident of Cup progress**

off on the Cup trail loday weather permitting - and they could still be on the road to

Hampden. The national stadium in Glasgow will be a building site come the date of the final on Saturday 18 May. The Scottish Football Association, however, seems unlikely to move the traditional end-of-season showpiece away from Hampden,

despite a cut in capacity.
Only an Old Firm meeting of pressure for tickets that would create, might force a rethink. at the national stadium? "At this stage it is still the intention of the International

al Hampden if possible," Jim Farry, the SFA chief executive, said. The ground's old south stand is to be demolished within weeks, leaving the capacity in a three-sided stadium at 34,000.

"The Executive Committee, who decide venues for cup finals and semi-finals, will look at ties on a game-to-game basis," Farry added. "Decisions will be hased on safety and the suitability for use of Hampden as work progresses. Clubs have Celtic and Rangers, and all the carried on using grounds during redevelopment, so why not

The undersoil heating at Easter Road should ensure Hihill meet Celtic on the same Edinhurgh turf tomorrow. Hibernian have not won the

Cup for 94 years since beating Celtic 1-0 in 1902. Alex Miller's side look Celtic to a replay in the semi-finals last season but failed at the final hurdle. They have won only once in

the last eight games, but Miller said: "This is not a make-orhreak game. The Cup is a oneoff and, if we play our best football, we can go through." Steven Tweed is injured while Darren Dods and Pat McGinlay are suspended, but Gordon Hunter and David Farrell could return. Kilmarnock could be un-Committee and the Executive bernian take on Kilmarnock in changed for the fifth game in a

in 1996 so far. The Tynecastle transforma-

tion effected by Jim Jefferies has left Hearts in buoyant mood for their campaign, and last week's 3-0 win over Rangers should swell the attendance against Partick across Edinhurgh. "It's s different game from Rangers but, if we score early, I'd expect us to win comfortably," Jefferies

Only six games today are expected to beat the weather: Keith v Rangers (at Pittodrie). Ross County v Forfar, Hibernian v Kilmarnock. Hearts v Partick, Hamilton v St Johnstone (at Firhill) and Caledonian Thistle v East Fife.

Forster on the wings and Mike Ford restricted to a place on the

The Carlisle second row forward Stuart Rhodes has been banned for five matches. Rhodes, who has also been fined £50, was placed on report by ref-

# **Broncos** in the hunt for **Mather**

London Broncos are back in the hunt for the England centre Barrie-Jon Mather, who failed in the High Court on Thursday to gain his release from Wigan in order to play in Australia.

Broncos' football manager Robbie Moore said: "We were waiting for clarification of the legal position and now that the player has to return to this country we will be making further inquiries. We are always interested in acquiring top-class

The London side have been tracking the 6ft 7in Mather since he was placed on the transfer list by Wigan for £150,000 last November after a contract dispute. The Central Park cluh maintain that he is under contract to them until 1997.

Lawyers acting for the 22year-old, who was a member of England's World Cup squad in October, had been trying to free him from his registration with Wigan so that he could join the Australian cluh Perth Western Reds in March.

Broncos, without a coach since parting company with Gary Grienke on Tuesday, will be without the services of the England winger Ikram Butt for their Challenge Cup visit to Dewsbury tomorrow.

The former Leeds and Featherstone player had a groin operation this week and will he out of action for about six weeks. He hopes to return for the start of the Super League season.

A Scottish consortium are altempling lo wrest control of Super League club Workington lown. Bob Jamieson and his husiness partner Angus Cook had been involved in an attempt to launch rugby league in the borders at Galashiels during the summer. Jamleson is working for three months as Town's a property developer and former director of Dundee FC, have pledged to pul money in the club if they get control.

However, the Workington directors are also talking to two husiness groups from Cumbria and hope to reach a decision early next month. "We need short-term inward investment and we are looking for a figure to do for us what Jack Walker did for Blackburn and Sir John Hall for Newcastle," Kevan Gorge, the club chairman, said.

The club have transfer-listed the prop Garry Schubert at £10,000 after he was unable to agree a new contract for the Super League.

# **Uefa launches attack on EU**

Uefa has launched its strongest attack yet on the European Union's attempt to sweep aside football's transfer and nationality regulations.

National federations continue to debate whether to accept the so-called Bosman ruling, or stand behind Europe's football officials. But the Uefa general secretary. Gerhard Aigner, accused the EU of intransigence and a lack of sensitivity and knowledge of the subject.

He warned that the EU court's insistence that the transfer system and nationality restrictions should be scrapped could destroy the structures of the game in the long term.

"Is it really necessary to take such aggressive action?" Aigner

He said it was "legitimate for football's bodies to defend themselves against measures which they are convinced will have a generally negative influence on the development of the sport and are likely to destroy the structures of national football in the long term.

of the European Commission some time before the Bosman case showed their fundamentally negative attitude towards football's authorities," Aigner added.

tricky hut it's oot too tough."

Westner's closest threats

among those who did not fin-

ish are Zimbatwe's Mark Mc-

Nulty, a shot behind on six

under par with four holes to

play, and another South

African, Warren Schutte, also at

six under with six holes re-

Ireland's David Higgins shot a second-round 72 yesterday to lie joint second, three shots behind, after being leap-frogged by Wayne Westner in a rain-disrupted day at the South African Masters in Port Edward.

the afternoon because of lightunable to finish their rounds be-

fore it got dark.

asked in the latest issue of the Uefa Flash newsletter. "Football didn't introduce requirements in contravention of EU law."

"The very aggressive com-ments made by representatives

### **Westner overhauls Higgins** Bowls

itable start. The twice South African Open champion dropped a shot at the first hole after driving into the righthand rough, and another at the fourth. However, he then found his form with seven birdies over the next nine holes around the turn. "I'm happy with the way I'm playing at the mo-ment," he said. "The course is

South Africa's Westner took full advantage of favourable morning conditions at the San Lameer Country Club to add 68 to his opening 69 for a total of 137. But, with two and a half yours of play suspended during ning and rain, half the field were

Westner did oot enjoy a prof-

The British pair Simon Archer and Julie Bradbury scored an unexpected win yes-terday to reach the final of the mixed doubles competition at the South Korean Open in Seoul. Archer and Bradbury, seed-ed seventh, beat the second seeds, Kim Dong Moon and Gil Young Ah of the host porg Moon and Gill Young An of the host ration, 15-13, 15-9. They are set to maef in the final the South Koreans Park Joo Bong and Ra Kyung Min, who prevented an all-British final by beating the soft seeds, Nack Porting and Joanne Wright, 15-3, 15-5 in the other semi-final.

Badminton

SOUTH ROREAN OPEN (Second Men's elo-gios firms: Kim Hek Kyun (S Korl bt Lee Nieurg Jn (S Kor) 15-5 15-5. Doubles sensi-lierates: R Subagitia and R Marroly (Indony bt C Hurit and S Archer (GB) 15-5 13-15 15-7; Chesh Soon (Kt and Yap) Kim Hock (Malay) 15 11 15-6. Microsoft stodies sensi-ficials: Bene Soo Hu & Microsoft stodies sensi-ficials: Bene Soo Hu & and Chaw Choon Eng (Malay) 15-11-15-6. Wooman's stagles aemi-fication Barg Soo Hyun (S Kor) to Zhang Ning (China) 12-10-12-10: Yao Yan (China) 10-10-10-11-15. Doubles finals Gil Young Ah and Jang Hye Ock (S Kor) to Kim Shin Young Ah and Jang Hye Ock (S Kor) to Kim Shin Young and Kim Mee Hyang (S Kor) 1-15-15-11-15-4. Mibred doubles semi-fitralis: S Archer and J Bradbury (GB) to Kim Dong Moon and Gil Young Ah (S Kor) 15-13-15-9. Park Joo Bong and Reyung Min (S Kor) to N Portang and J Weight (GS) 15-3 15-5.

Basketball MBA: Washington 120 Houston 85; Detrot 93 Delias 92: Vancouner 106 Toronto 101: LA Clippers 94 Denver 93.

Boxing

François Botha's second urine sample from his International Boxing Federation from his International Boxing Federation heavyweight charmpionship wichoy over Axel Schulz has tested positive for stendids. A hearing will be held within two weeks by the IBF championship committee to decide whether the South African will be stripped of the title he won by a split decision over Schulz on 9 December in Stuttgart.

### Cricket

The one-day match between Zmbab-we and Central Districts in Napier, New Zealand, yesterday was cancelled due to rain, Zimbabwe start their three-match intrind-overs seres against New Zealand

Notinghamshire restarday announced a record profit of £258,714 for 1995. it follows the money-scircing double vs-

### SPORTING DIGEST

it of the West Indies to Trent Bridge, help-ing the club exceed £2m in income from the game for the first time.

### Football

Russell Osman, the former England de-fender, has signed a new contract keep-ing him with Brighton for another month. The 36-year-old ex-Bristol City boss has been on a month-to-month contract since arriving at the Second Division club in September.

Oumar Dieng, the Paris St-Germain de-fender, has been banned for two months by the French Football Feder-ation for failing a drugs teat. He is the fourth professional player to be given a ban in France this season. The Spanish Soccer Federation agreed

yesterday to cut their First Division from 22 to 18 teams by 1998 on the recommendation of Uefa. The First Division experted y last summer after the Spanish authorities demoted several teams to the Second Division for rules violations and then silowed them to return, joining two clubs who had been promoted. Lennart Johansson, the Uefa president, will ask his board to approve the plan to drop to 20 teams next season and then to Angel Maria Villar, president of the Spanish federation, said: "Uefa are not in favour of this long transition to reach 18 teams, but they understand the spe-cial situation our country is in."

18 teams, but they understand the special situation our country is in."

LIST NIGHT'S FOCURE POSTPONEMENTS:
Endishigh treatment beingue Third Division:
Donossite v Mansfeld fittings pittil, Press
and Journal Highland League: Deveronder V Clachnacuden (snow).

WORLD CUP GROUP SEVEN QUALIFYING SCHEDURE: San 2 Jame 1998: San Marino; Beigum v Turkey. Sat Oct 5: Wakes v Netherlands. Wed 9 Oct San Marino v Belgum, Sat Nov 9: Netherlands wildless San Marino v Turkey. Sat Oct 5: Wakes v Netherlands. Wed 9 Oct San Marino v Belgum. Sat Nov 9: Netherlands; Wakes V Turkey flossible). Sat 29 Mar 1997: Wakes V Beigum, Netherlands v San Marino. Wed 2 April: Turkey v Netherlands. Turkey v Beigum, Netherlands. Wed 30 April: San Marino v Netherlands. Turkey v Beigum, Sat 7 June: Beigum v San Marino. Wed Apg 20: Turkey v Wakes. Sat 6 Sept Notherlands v Beigum. Wed 10 Sept San Marino v Turkey. Tue 11 Nov. Netherlands v Turkey; Beigum v Wakes.

PHOENIX OPEN (Arizons) Leading second-round scores (US unless stated): 132 W Austra 65 67. 133 / Pamerik (Swe) 67 66.

134 S Jones 67 67: J Leonard 87 67. 135
D Pocialy 88 67; S Verptank 69 66. 236 6
Lane (68) 68 68. 137 A Magte 68 69; D
Martin 68 69; R Mediate TO 67; T Schemer
67 70; M Standy 71 99; 61 way 96 71. 138
M Bradley 69 69; C Byrum 69 69; D Dunel
68 70; L Jerzen 69 69; K Party 99 69; D
Pohl 68 72; T Puster 70 68; S Sumpson 67
T1; J Wisson 67 71. 140 5 1/4 (68) 68 72.
141, G Watte (NZ) 70 71. 144 F Alem (SA)
72 72. 148 5 Elengton (Aug) 7 5 73.
SOUTH AFRICAN MASTERS (Sam Lambeer
Country Clab, Part Edward) Leading secand-roand scores (SA usiless stated):
137 W Wester 69 69. 140 D Hagans (III)
68 72, I Palmer 70 70, C Williams 71 69.
142 A Medrick (GB) 71 71, F, Gurn Jur (IS)
73 69; S van der Merwe 72 70; G Read 72
70. 1443 McHemy (Rap Id) 67 76; M Christols
(US) 67 76; C Devision (GB) 70 73; C Kemps
71 72; L James (GB) 71 72; A Lovelace (GB)
72 72; D Fichard 71 73; M Archer (GB) 74
70.

Nett.: Heriford & Los Angeles 2; Boston 4 Terri-pa Bay 3; Montreal & Flonds 2; New Jersey 3 Weshington 1; Detroit 4 Ottawa 2; Chloe-go 2 San Jese 1; Colorado 2 Vencouver 2 (o/t.

W L T GF GAPTS ATLANTIC DIVISION WESTERN CONFERENCE CENTRAL DIVISION

ice skating EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHP (Sofie) Women's short programme: 1 S Bonaty (Fri 0.5ots; 2 I Suesiana (Rus) 1.0; 3 T Szemzanto (Ger) 1.5; 4 M Buyrsiana (Rus) 2.0; S & Llestranio (Ukr) 2.5; 3 V Gusmerali (Fr) 3.0.

### **Rugby Union**

Kenya is to host an International sevens tournament which organisers hope may become the biggest such event in the world. The Safari Sevens will take place in Natrobl on 27-28 July.

### Skling

Several leading women Alpine siders said hill at Sestriere, Italy, today, and some hill at Sestilere, Italy, today, and some suggested they might boyoot the race. Heavy overnight snow prevented an official training session on the new piste yesterday and race officials said they would hold a training run today before the race starts at 11.30em. "These officials are playing genes with us," the Swiss Heidi Zurbriggen, who is 10th in the overall standings, said. "The piste at the moment is too fast and dangerous. We need much more training time ous. We need much more training time then they are offering."

aritam's Chris Wilkinson beat Poland's Wajtek Kowalski 7-5, 6-4 and will play either David Rikl, the Czech Republic No 2 seed, or Chris Woodruff, of the

Snow reports

STALY

ezze d'Oubc.....fresi

St Mortez ......fresh

INITED STATES & CANADA

SWITZERLAND

United States. In the semi-finals of the ATP Challenger event in Heilbronn, Ger-The lucrative men's Grand Slam Cup,

usually held each December, is to be played earlier in 1997 because of the clash with the Davis Cup final and the ATP Tour World Championship. The Grand AIP Your World Champlonehip. The Grand Slam committee said yesterday it was not ideal for the AIP champlonship, the Davis Cup final and the Grand Slam Cup to be played consecutively at the end of a long season. The 1996 event will be held as scheduled in Munich from 3-8 December but a new date for next year would be set following further dus-cussions with the AIP tour. AUSTRALIAN OPEN Membourne Men's also-

CUSSIONS with the ATP tour.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN (MeBourne) Bleen's singles seri-finalist M CHANG (US) bt ANDRE AGASSI (US) 6.1 6.4 7.6; 8 BECKER (ser) bt M Woodforde (Aus) 6.4 6.2 6.0. Women's doubles serial-finalist C RUSIN IUS) and A SANCHEZ VICARO (Sel Ex N ARENDT (US) and A SANCHEZ VICARO (Sel Ex N ARENDT (US) and A BOLLEGRAF (Neth) 6.4 2.6 6.2. Missed Doubles sezial-finals L Jensen and N Arendtuls) bt J-L 1. De Jager(SA) and J Hetherngton (Can) 6.2 6.4. Boys' singles quarter-finals: 6 Retnows: (Seo) bt P Snchaphen (The) 6.2 6.1; M Helistrom (Swe) bt R Brysn (US) 5.7 6.2 6.3; S Geon (Aua) bt J Vanek (CR Roj) 4.8 7.5 6.1; D Elener (Gen) bt J Settlergren (Swe) 7.5 7.5. Doubles: seeml-finals: M Lee and J Intotman (GB) bt M Helistrom and 3 Rehnqvist (Swe) 7.5 6.2; D Braccaé (II) and J Robichaud

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Show

information supplied by Ski Hotim

(Can) bt J Settergan and P Thomadtason (Swe) 6-1 6-4, Girlis' stragges quarter-finalis: A El-wood (Aus.) bt J Schonfeldora (Cz Rep.) 6-1 6-2: M Lucic (Croe) bt S Niemova (Cz Rep.) 6-3 6-0; M Grybowskie (Pol) bt 6 Drake Brockman (Aus.) 6-2 6-2: N Deorly (Fr) bt A Mauresmo (Fr) 6-2 4-6 6-3. Deorbies quarter-finalis: R Read and C Weston (Aus.) bt A Rippner and M Carlise White (US) 6-6-3; O Barabasch-flove (Bele) and M Lucic (Croe) bt N Deorly and A Mauresmo (Fr) 6-1 3-5 6-4; M Pestikova and J Schonfeldova (Cz Rep.) bt Cno Yoon-feong and Won Kyung-ton (S Kon 6-7 7-5 6-4; S Kreinova (Cz Rep.) and L Vermuzowe (San Mar) bt A Castera (Fr) and T Pffvelfisch (Ger.) 6-1 6-3. Seniora doubles championabig R Case and G Masters (Aus.) bt M Edmondson and K Rosewall (Aus.) 2-6 6-3 7-8.

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# Gay Meadow prepares to welcome Liverpool

PHIL SHAW

The lower orders had their day in the third round of the FA Cup. with Ipswich, Sheffield United and Chariton humbling the self-styled aristo-crats of Blackburn, Arsenal and Sheffield Wednesday. The fourth round tends to be a different matter: when the going

gets tough, the toffs get going. The Toffees of Everton proved a case in point last year. rising from the depths of the Premiership to win at Wembley. No Evertonian would shed tears for Liverpool were they to succumb at Shrewsbury to-

the Second Division side's manager. In a neat bit of reverse psychology, Davies has had a sign placed above the players' tunnel - similar to the one that has struck fear into visitors to Anfield down the decades - which declares: "This is Gay Meadow".

Shrewsbury, whose squad in-cludes four Scousers, have lost only four of their last 27 games. They also possess a striker with inside knowledge of Liverpool's three-man defence. Steve Anthrobus was a colleague of Phil Babb and Neil Ruddock at Millwall before joining John Scales at Wimbledon. Having scored seven goals in seven years. Anthrobus is ripe for his 15 minutes of fame.

Reading have used six goal-keepers this season, yet none of the three eligible to turn out against Manchester United is fit. The Bulgarian, Borislav Mikhailov, faces a late test on a thigh strain, Simon Sheppard has a broken arm and Nicky Hammond chicken-pox. The latter has volunteered to come

If Elm Park's keeper crisis is designed to hull United into over-confidence, the sight of a hideously bumpy playing surface should disabuse them of any such notions. Referring to the 20 tonnes of sand spread over it to assist with drainage, the Reading defender Andy Bernal

out of quarantine and play, proof that Cup fever can still overcome lesser infections.

irony: "Our pitch could be a great leveller

Port Vale's chances of causing an upset at Everton might have been greater had Joe Royle's team not already suffered a scare against Stockport, although the Potteries club can point to some encouraging auguries.

When they last faced the holders, in 1954. Vale beat Blackpool, including Stanley Matthews, en route to the semifinal. The current side, despite being 19th in the First Division. have won eight and drawn two

of the last 12 games. In the kind of duel which encapsulates the competition's charm, Vale are likely to deploy

the 6st 4in Gareth Griffiths, a £1,000 buy from Rhyl, against Duncan Ferguson, who cost £4m from Rangers. Ferguson plays on pending the verdict from a judicial review in Edinburgh into whether he must

serve the remaining seven

games of a 12-match ban from

the Scottish FA. The Cup quicksand has so far claimed four Premiership victims, a total that must at least double before this round is over. Nevertheless, ties between clubs from different levels remain the essence of the competition's appeal. In-form Aston Villa, who have not lifted the trophy in 39 years, are another team with an unenviable

task, travelling tomorrow to

Sheffield United, bottom of the First but conquerors of Ar-

The ex-files could be a particularly strong factor at Bramall Lane, with United's manager Howard Kendall looking to one of Villa's great stalwarts, Gordon Cowans, to bridge the

chasm in quality.

Nor can Tortenham.

Southampton or West Ham feel entirely confident today. Spurs' visitors, Wolves, are warming to Mark McGhee's radically different playing style, and will be hoping that Ian Walker does not recover from illness in time to face Steve Bull and co. In that event. Chris Day, 20, would make his debut

Southampton are on a hiding to nothing against Crewe, who stand second in the Second Division and have several young talents who will not look out of place in the company of Matthew Le Tissier. One, Neil Lennon, is likely to move up to the top level, pos-sibly with Queen's Park Rangers, as and when Crewe go

out of the Cup. West Ham receive Grimsby. sadly no longer accompanied by the shoal of inflatable haddock in the stands. But the Mariners do have a big fish in a small pond in the shape of Ivano Bonetti, late of Juventus, who will be anxious to uphold the honour of South Humberside and Italy on the grand stage.

# On Monday



20-page Sports section



Colin Jackson.

arta, tels Mike Ron



UP FOR THE CUP

of full-back Chris Powell to Derby for £750,000.

# Asprilla leaves without signing medical news conference was in keeping with the cloak-and-**GUY HODGSON**

Football

Newcastic United's £6.7m purchase of Faustino Asprilla was in doubt last night when the Colombian striker flew back to Italy without putting his signature to a contract estimated to be worth £15,000 a week.

Asprilla, 26, whose Italian a knee injury, had been in Newcastle to complete the formalities of a move from Parma that would have taken the Premiership leaders' spending to £40m since Kevin Keegan became manager in 1992. These included a medical which, perhaps significantly, was not mencompleted when the club issued

Delivered by the chief exec-Faustino Asptilla is now returning to Italy and we will be making an application for the appropriate work permit. The player was here to have his medical and to finalise other details, all of which has been

The lack of the usual after-

dagger atmosphere in which this whole episode has been undertaken. Asprilla flew in to Teesside Airport on Thursday to avoid those expecting him at Newcastle and he slipped away from St James' Park without facing journalists or

supporters.

I want to do my hest for season has been disrupted with Kevin Keegan," he said in a statement. "Newcastle are a great cluh who can give me a chance to play in the European Champions' Cup. That is why I am so excited to be joining

Refering to the allegations about his past that have surly, was not men-successfully added: "I don't care about what is in the past, the slate is

Newcastle's chairman. Sir utive Freddie Fletcher, it read: John Hall, also played down Asprilla's history which includes a shooting incident, an alleged argument with a hus driver resulting in a leg injury and several car crashes.

> awful lot of young people," he said. "Kevin rates him very highly and other people helieve



he is one of the top three players in the world."

Another Newcastle target, David Batty, was yesterday "I think at times we expect an thinking over his options, while insisting that he is not on strike and had not gone absent from

training. The unsettled Black-burn midfielder had a £3.5m move to Newcastle blocked by the Rovers owner, Jack Walker. In contrast, Steve Stone has settled his differences with Not-

tingham Forest and agreed an

DOWN

ed? Lesson that's not

working (7) Girl? One gets almost

from Dublin? (5)

mai means (9) 13 Very nid chap - that's me

fresh (4)
One hard man coming up

Presumably sharp or flat, but not produced by nor-

so healthy, on reflection

(10) Suitably prepared and ex-

Phil Neal has been appointed the manager of Cardiff City 11 months after leaving Coventry. Neal's for- speak to the Football Associmer Liverpool team-mate, ation of Ireland. Whelan will

improved three-and-a-half year Ronnie Whelan, has emerged as a front runner for the vacant Republic of Ireland manager's job after heing given permission by Southend United to

first have to oversee the sale

Wales begin their World Cup qualifying campaign away to San Marino on Sunday 2 June. Spurs' reprieve, page 26

# THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

By Phi No. 2894. Saturday 27 January

# **ACROSS**

Squeal when I get tor-tured (5)
Love shown by holy man taken in by dirty cheat (9)
Sixteen inadequate? Live to encompass 50, capable of more (10)
North-West Passage trans-port possibly motivating i.e. Cabot (3-4)
Wretched fellow's behead-ed? Lesson that's not Hope to nab rotten thief? Dragnet may catch one (5,4) Notice Italy joining Euro-pean Union? Farewell to another member! (5) Computer information? Elpful clue about procession unit, initially (5) What economics aim for could be inflation! (9) A former world leader where noise is involved (10)

12 Have a discussion if removing river from map (4)

14 Wind player has most of string instrument in clenched hand (7)

15 One of Churchill's names for

an overcoat (7) Framework made from mos of woody plant is ailing, pushed over (7) Alcohol - most of that's in single, knocked back (7) 20 Hoist with front displaces has to move slowly (4) In infra-red, one line is mul-

ti-coloured (10) Madly rage and mock refa-tive (5-4) City with two cathedrals lacking a mere organ (5) Delicious last bit of savelo gets to stomach, taking no time (5)

14 Suitably prepared and excited (9)
16 Study tennis-player - one hoarding energy? (9)
18 Composer is leading one in support (7)
19 Quote to finish up vividly clear (7)
21 The best hunny car carries one upward (5)
23 Sudden attack of ill-health restricts one in Italian city (5) Remain a good person? Yes (4)

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the excellent Laronsse Dictionary of Literary Characters worth £25. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday, Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P. O. Box 4818, The independent, I Canada Square, Canary Whart, London £145 EBL Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: C W Thomas, Bristol; P H. N Whitside, London £11, Miss Emms Sturdee, Walton-on-Thumes; Gerald Cowham, Huddersfield: Stewart and Jane Jones, Northumberland.

# **Bath and Wigan contest** the clash of the codes

antipathy will be laid to rest when Bath and Wigan play each other in a two-match series in May - the first in the North under rugby league rules and the second in the South, possibly at Twickenham itself,

under union rules. Such are the consequences of rugby union's new professionalism and the removal of the taint that union has sought to attach to league since the great split of 1895. The practical benefits of playing these matches maybe obscure beyond one code being able to claim a spurious superiority over the other, but serious money will be involved when union's five-times English champions take on league's

perennial British champions. Now that the matches - prob-ably on 8 and 25 May - have been confirmed, television can begin the serious bidding. Goodison Park and Maine Road, homes of Everton and Manchester City respectively, were yesterday touted as possible Northern venues. Failing Twickenham, Bath have

Steve Bale on the historic games which will bring together league and union

enquired about using Cardiff

Arms Park.
"Of course it's a great commercial venture," John Quin, the Bath secretary, said last night. "But over and above that, here is the chance for the leading exponents of both codes to pit their wits against each other. At this stage I would have thought it was a one-off, or a two-off if you like, to celebrate the comingtogether of the two codes."

Though agreement to stage the matches was confirmed by the clubs yesterday, the Rugby Football Union has yet to give formal blessing through its gameregulation committee. But Richard Mawditt, the Bath chairman, has told other club officers he has the verhal approval of Tony Hallett. the RFU secretary. Wigan received the Rugby Football League's support a

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while ago and already have won a Twickenham date: the Middlesex Sevens on 11 May. The prospective date of the second match would necessitate postponement of Wigan's Super

League fixture against Sheffield Eagles the following day. In fact the League has been luke warm about the venture and when Bath approached the RFU with a view to using Twickenham they were initially told it would be unavailable due to reseeding.

But the prospect of taking the game to Wales appears to have wrought a change of mind.
When they heard that the
Arms Park was being considered," Quin said wryly, "it seems they decided to reallocate their reseeding programme."

Ladbrokes, the bookmakers,

reckon the chances of either side being beaten at their own game are remote. Wigan are I-10 (if you bet £10 you stand to win only £1) to win under league rules, with Bath at 6-1. Bath are the 4-11 favourites to take the union contest, with



DIARY OF DESPAIR "As I walked up the caged

tunnel to a volley of abuse from the crowd in front of the dressing room, I knew that was it for the series. | was so devastated I felt I wanted to go back out, put the stumps up and take guard again.

Mark Ramprakash a distrusioned tourist

# Mer Church Mavel



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